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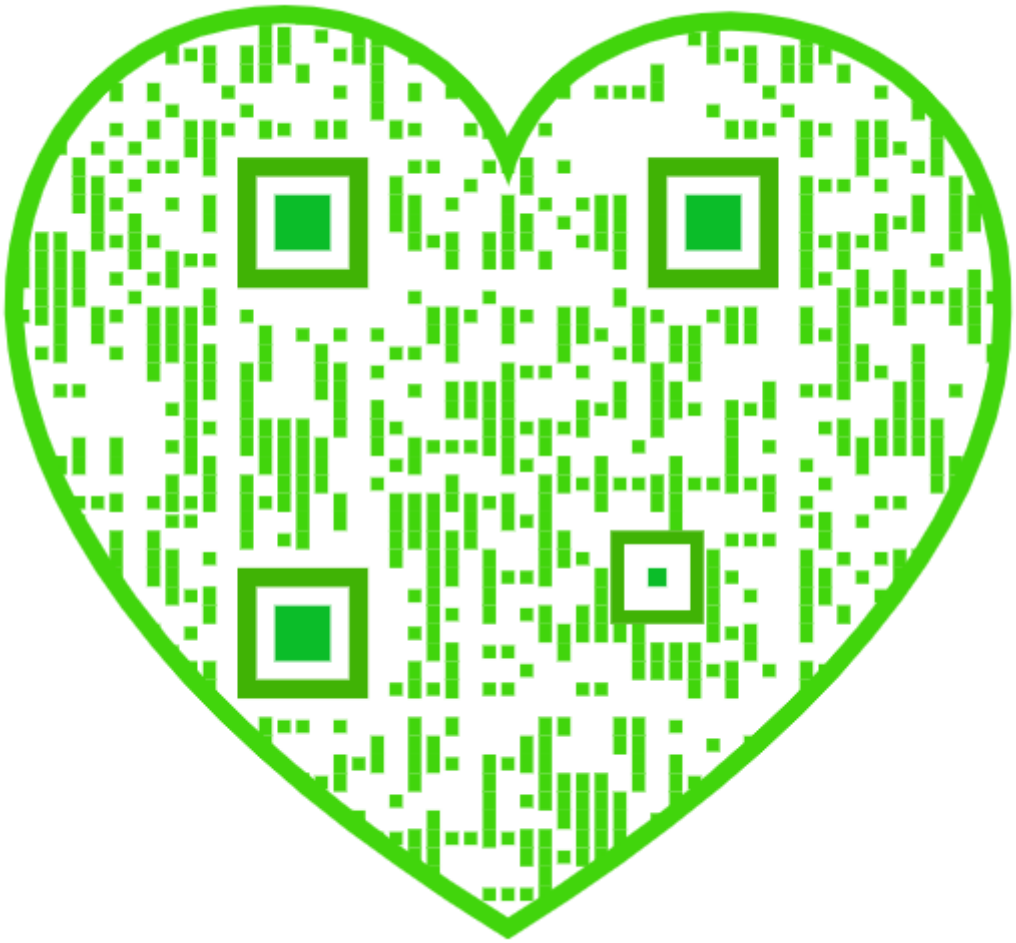
HOME LAUNDRY HINTS



HOME

Laundry Hints

A book of Laundry Information for Housewives, Laundresses, Students in Domestic Science, and all others interested in the best Laundry Work

ARRANGED, COMPILED AND PUBLISHED
IN THE INTERESTS OF

MRS. STEWART'S BLUING

THE PERFECT BLUING

NEW EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

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ALLYN K. FORD
MINNEAPOLIS

"He who labors, prays. What worship, for example, is there not in mere washing."

—CARLYLE.

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PREFACE

THE need of a practical book on home laundry work has been recognized for a long time. There are plenty of cook-books to be had, but none on laundry work, the only way to get such information until now, being from household magazines, by clipping the ideas at random and then making a scrap book. This little book saves all that trouble, for in it you will find all the latest and most approved ideas for cleansing of every kind.

This is primarily a practical handbook, for those recipes not adapted to home use have been eliminated, the idea being to make the book simple and really useful. On the other hand, methods which enable the work to be done better or easier, and which tend to make laundry work less of a burden, have been carefully investigated and are included in this little book. You will find it a treasure-house of laundry information, and while it contains much which is familiar to the experienced housewife, still there is a great deal new matter, here published for the first time. A careful perusal of its pages will repay any woman who is interested in good laundry work.

Special attention is called to chapter VII, Removing Stains, and to the complete Index on page 78, by use of which you can turn to any subject immediately.

If there are any recipes bearing on laundry work or cleaning of any kind which you have found especially good, and which are not mentioned here; particularly if calling for the use of MRS. STEWARTS BLUING, send them to us. You will receive our acknowledgement, and if available they will be published in a new edition of this book. Your name will be withheld if requested.

Schools, colleges, etc., who wish copies of this book for the use of their students, also public libraries, should write for special terms.

ALLYN K. FORD, Minneapolis, Minn.

CHAPTER I.

SOAP AND WATER.

Of two countries, with an equal amount of population, we may declare with positive certainty that the wealthiest and most highly civilized is that which consumes the greatest weight of soap.

Liebig.

All your better deeds
Shall be in water writ.

Beaumont and Fletcher.

N laundry work, the first and most important thing is water, and plenty of it. It is the greatest of all cleansers; for with plenty of water and plenty of time, one could, with rubbing, cleanse almost anything, but this, of course, would be a rather hard way, and few would care to spend the necessary time or strength.

For the housewife, water may be classed as of two kinds, hard and soft. Hard water, which contains mineral substances in solution, may be distinguished by the length of time it takes soap to make a lather; for soft water produces a lather quickly, and dissolves soap rapidly. For laundry work it is important that the water be soft so the soap can do its work properly; and in localities where nothing but hard water is obtainable, it must be softened or "broke" as it is called. To do this, some chemical is usually added to the water, such as sal soda, lye, borax, or ammonia. One tablespoonful of sal soda or borax, to each gallon of water,

is about the proportion; though waters vary in hardness, some requiring stronger and others a weaker solution. The material chosen, should first be dissolved with hot water in a granite iron dish before putting it in the boiler. See that it is entirely dissolved, otherwise it may injure the clothes. After the water comes to a boil, skim and strain before using. If ammonia is used, have enough so as to counteract the minerals, but the water should not he hot, as this evaporates the ammonia and causes it to lose its strength. Be careful to use only just enough to soften the water, for an excess will eat into the clothes and cause damage; or will at least make the clothes yellow.

If yours is "temporary" hard water, that is containing lime, it may be softened by boiling, and the old-fashioned way is to put a glass bottle in the water which is being boiled, then, after boiling, the lime and other impurities will be found adhering to the bottle. It is said that this makes the water boil much more quickly.

Water for washing should be clean and free from any odor when either hot or cold, and it is best to avoid when possible water which contains iron, as this will cause rust spots on the clothes if the soap is not thoroughly washed out.

USING LYE FOR HARD WATER.

Many housewives are afraid to use lye to break the hard water for the weekly washing, but if they follow instructions they will have no trouble.

Have ready a large galvanized tub, also a ten gallon water pail. Two large buckets of hard water require about one teaspoonful of lye. Let it stand over night, and next morning take clear water from the tub, but do not stir the bottom. Place the clear water on the stove, begin washing, and boil your clothes in this water. You will have beautifully white clothes and your hands will be uninjured.

To Clear Muddy or Dirty Water.—In localities where the water has a great deal of sand in it, clear before using by taking one tablespoonful of alum dissolved in hot water, for each gallon of water used. This precipitates the dirt to the bottom; and the top which is now clean, may be poured off and used.

LAUNDRY SOAP.

Next to water the most important thing is soap. This unites with the dirt in the clothes and loosens it; then the water washes it out. For good work a good laundry soap should be used, on the quality of which one can rely. Almost all laundry soap contains some rosin, a small amount is not injurious. Buy soap by the case, remove bars from wrappers and let it dry and season, which makes it last a great deal longer, and besides effects a considerable saving over buying a few bars at a time. For washing woolens, silks, laces, etc., a neutral soap with but little free alkali should be used. Soft soap is too strong for most laundry work, being very hard on the hands and clothes. It should be used only in washing very dirty or greasy articles of clothing, for scrubbing floors, etc.

For a small wash, one ordinary size cake of soap should be sufficient.

One should economize in using soap, by saving the small pieces of soap to shave into the clothes boiler. Form the habit of removing the bar of soap from the water when enough has been used, otherwise the entire bar will soon disappear.

You can buy soap chips and use them in a salt bag both in kitchen and laundry and they are much cheaper than soap by the bar and just as good.

It is better to buy soap than to make it at home, as the saving is hardly equal to the trouble of making it. Still, one

can use up the fats and grease from the kitchen in this way, and we therefore, give these recipes for making soap:

To Make Hard Soap.—The fats, greases, etc., should first be clarified by boiling with several pieces of raw potatoes, then skimmed and strained through cheese cloth. Now, take 2½ pints of cold water in a granite iron dish, and add one pound best lye. This should be done with the greatest care, as the lye will eat the hands if it falls on them. It is best to wear gloves, or cover them with an old cloth or paper for protection. The mixture becomes hot, as the lye dissolves, and it should be allowed to stand and cool till the temperature is about 70 degrees. Now take 6½ pounds of the clarified fat, and warm till melted, but do not boil. Slowly pour the lye on the grease, stirring meanwhile, and when about the consistency of thin honey, pour into wet pans. Do not stir too long. When cold, cut the soap into cakes.

To Make White Floating Soap.—Take four quarts fat, any kind will do; two 10 cent cans of lye, and ten quarts of water. Put water in an old boiler, then the fat, and last the lye. Boil slowly three hours. When the soap becomes flaky and the liquid looks clear and boils over the soap, it is ready to skim. Line a wooden box with a piece of wet muslin, skim out soap, and put in the box to drain about twelve hours, then cut in bars. This will make twelve large bars of hard, white soap, that may be used for any kind of washing. If the soap sticks on the hand when squeezed and looks greasy, it needs a little more lye, if too flaky, more fat. The liquid can be used for scrubbing.

To Make Soft Soap.—Take 7½ pounds of potash, ten pounds of grease and forty gallons of water. Dissolve potash in a pan of water, add about one-third of the grease, and heat. Now mix in the remainder of the grease and add the rest of the water gradually for several days. It will be ready for use in about two weeks.

CHAPTER II.

WASHING.

They that wash on Monday, have all the week
to dry;
They that wash on Tuesday, are not so much
awry;
They that wash on Wednesday, are not so
much to blame:
They that wash on Thursday, wash for shame;
They that wash on Friday, wash in need;
And they that wash on Saturday—oh, they're
sluts indeed.

Old English Proverb.

THE name "washing" is supposed to have been given to the process of cleansing clothes in water because of the peculiar sound produced—something like the sound of the word itself.

It is much more sensible, and convenient, to have the weekly washing done on Tuesday than on Monday. It is easy to gather up the laundry in a liesurely way on Monday and have it ready early the next morning for the laundress. Table linen, children's garments, and many other things are better mended before washing than after, and Monday is a good time for the task. Many garments worn Sunday would suffice for another day's wearing, if the laundress could wait for them until Tuesday.

On the day before "wash day," the soiled articles should be sorted into piles, each containing one kind only. Look

over each piece carefully and if any are torn, mend them, or at least draw the edges together so the rent will not be made any worse. If any have stains, remove them now, though a better time would have been to remove them when the stain was made. Make piles of clothes as follows: First, table linen; second, bed and body linen; third, handkerchiefs; fourth, muslins, laces, etc.; fifth, kitchen cloths, etc. Flannels should be shaken and dusted and rolled up dry; prints and colored goods laid away dry.

It is best to put each kind to soak by themselves in weak suds, but if this is not possible, all except table linen, handkerchiefs, kitchen cloths, etc., may be put to soak together; the latter must be kept by themselves till clean. Handkerchiefs, if badly soiled, may be put to soak in salty water first, or if there have been colds in the family, soaked in a weak solution of boracic acid and water. It is a good plan also to put collars, cuffs, shirts, etc., to soak by themselves, so that the old starch will not soak into the other articles which do not require starch. Fold and roll each piece by itself, pack in a tub; cover with warm soapy water and let them stand over night. The soaking over night in weak suds, greatly aids the cleaning process next day.

Before washing, soften a bar of laundry soap in warm water, then rub it over the washboard, leaving each corrugation partly filled.

In putting clothes to soak, rub the soiled places on the soapy board. Then roll the articles and pack them under the water. You can do this in less than half the time usually spent in handling, and without the annoyance of losing the soap in the tub.

Three things should be kept in view in washing clothes. First, to get out all the dirt. Second, to keep the things a good color. Third, to use nothing that will destroy the materials, either chemically or mechanically—that is, by using strong soap or bleaching powders or by rough beating or scrubbing.

Next prepare melted soap by shaving or slicing pieces of soap, which have been shaved for this purpose when too small for other use. Place in an earthen jar with just enough water to cover it and set on stove till the soap melts. This must be made fresh every week for it loses its strength if kept longer. Use about one-quarter pound soap to each gallon of water.

HOW TO WASH EASILY.

On washing day rise early, as much better work can be done before the heat of the day comes on.

Proceed with the day's work in this order:

1. Wash flannels or silk underwear. These require no boiling and only warm water, and if rinsed and hung out at once, will be dry before the line is needed for other things.
2. Wash stockings. See page 15.
3. Using warm, clean suds, wash cleanest things first in this order: Table linen; bed linen; towels; body linen; handkerchiefs; soaked clothes.

Make fresh suds whenever necessary. It is a mistake to think you can wash clothes clean in dirty water.

4. Boil. Put clothes into cold water with soap solution. Let them come slowly to the boiling point, then let them boil for ten minutes. The longer they are coming to the boil the better.
5. Rinse in two or three waters. The more waters, the whiter and cleaner the clothes.
6. Blue with Mrs. Stewart's Bluing. Shake out each piece and put through the bluing water. See chapter III.
7. Starch whatever needs thin starch. See chapter IV.
8. Hang out, putting pieces of a kind together, and have the threads of the cloth straight. See chapter V.
9. Wash colored clothes. See page 14.
10. Dry. If possible, dry the clothes out-of-doors. Take down, piece by piece. Never crush clothes into a basket.
11. Dampen and roll up.

Points Worth Remembering When Washing.—Have tub and washboard at the proper height, so rubbing is done with the arms not the back. Use plenty of soap, it saves rubbing and take fresh suds when water becomes dirty. Have a small brush handy, and with it rub dirty spots. It will save your hands and clothes and it removes the dirt easier.

If in a hurry to use a tub that leaks, press common soap into the cracks from the outside. When dry pour melted paraffine around the cracks.

To wash overalls and very badly stained clothing, use a small scrubbing brush on the washboard. A small board, on which to scrub is handy to slip in each leg of the overalls.

In boiling clothes, use clean cold water, bringing to a boil slowly, and then boiling ten minutes. The clothes should be clean before putting them in the boiler, but any spots not entirely clean may be soaped as they are put in. Rinsing is most important as every bit of soap should be washed out before bluing, otherwise rusty spots may appear. The first rinsing water should be warm, or a soapy scum may settle on the clothes. Careless rinsing is often the cause of unsatisfactory washing.

Small pieces, such as collars, jabots, handkerchiefs, napkins, etc., are much more conveniently handled in washing, if placed in a bag before being put in the boiler.

A slice of lemon put into the boiler when boiling clothes will make them beautifully white. It will take all the stains out of pocket-handkerchiefs and other such things. Cut the lemon without the rind into slices and let it remain in the boiler until the clothes are ready to come out.

One tablespoonful of borax in your rinsing water will cut the soap grease from your clothes and make them beautifully white. Remove scum as it rises or it will stick to the clothes again.

WRINGING.

Thorough wringing has much to do with the good color of clothes. They should never have enough water left in them to drip after they are on the line.

When using the wringer, fold the clothes so they will be about the same thickness when passing through, all buttons, etc., being folded inside the goods. In wringing skirts with heavy ruffles, wring the upper part first, then adjust the wringer so that thick part will go through without straining the wringer or injuring the goods. Wringing sheets and table cloths crosswise instead of lengthwise will take the wrinkles out of the edges, and they iron much easier.

A denim apron with a high bib is a great thing when washing. In it can be put two large pockets for clothespins, etc. An even better plan is to make the apron of oilcloth, and cuffs of the same material make fine sleeve protectors.

Use a good pinch of granulated sugar on the hands when covered with soap suds to soften and whiten them.

To Wash Flannels Without Shrinking.—First, wash the flannels; because they take so long, to dry, and as only warm water—not hot—is needed, this can be taken from the boiler while it is heating water for the rest of the washing; then by the time the flannels are finished, the water will be hot. In washing flannels, five things must be observed:

1. Wash but one piece at a time.
2. Do not soak, boil or rub.
3. Do not wash in dirty water.
4. Wash in waters of the same temperature.
5. Use a good neutral soap, containing little free alkali.

After putting some of the melted soap into the water, and working up a good lather, take the lightest colored flannel piece, which has previously been well shaken, and plunge it into the lather. Do not rub as this makes the fibres harsh; but instead, punch and knead it till cleansed. If one soap

lather is not enough use a second. When clean wring tightly, shake again and rinse in two waters, of the same temperature as before, after which blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, squeeze as dry as possible, and, if the weather is fine hang out doors at once. If it is necessary to dry in the house, hang near the fire (but not too near,) so it will dry without shrinking. If steam arises while drying, there is too much heat. It is best to use a wringer so as not to twist the fibre.

Colored flannels can be washed in the same way, and with as little delay as possible. The last rinsing water should have some vinegar added, in the proportion of one tablespoonful to each quart, or if there are two or more colors, use salt instead of vinegar. This helps to set and revive the colors. They should be hung wrong side out, and when nearly dry turned. Knitted and woven woolen garments should be pulled into shape while drying, and it is a good plan to have frames made for woolen stockings, over which they can be stretched while drying.

All flannels will wash easier by adding a little ammonia, to the water (one tablespoonful to two gallons,) and this must be carefully rinsed out. Ammonia is quite necessary when hard water is used. By adding one tablespoonful of glycerine to the last water, the wool will be kept soft. Do not wash flannels on a rainy day if it can be avoided, or hang them where they will freeze. Choose a day when it is bright and breezy, if you possibly can.

To Wash Blankets.—Proceed the same as for flannels and hang out to dry at once. By running threads around the soiled spots of the blanket you can find them again, when the blanket is wet. Two tablespoonsful of salt in the water in which they are washed, and a little less in the rinsing water, keeps the border colors from fading. Pin blanket on the line the long way of the blanket, so the colors will run down their own lines; putting only enough over the line to hold the blanket in place. When dry, fold carefully.

To Wash Blankets in Cold Water.—Take melted soap and add cold water in a tub. To this soapy water add four tablespoonsful of powdered borax. Soak the blankets in this over night or for several hours. Wash in this water. Rinse twice in cold water, wring, and rinse finally in Mrs. Stewart's bluing water, but do not wring or squeeze them this last time; simply hang out to drain and dry in the sunshine. Hang the blankets by the side, and change to the other side when partly dry. Blankets washed this way will not shrink and will be light and fluffy.

A Good Soap for Washing Woolens.—Take one large bar Ivory Soap (or any other neutral soap) and shave it into three quarts of cold water. Heat till it boils, then cool, when two tablespoonsful borax and one-half cup wood alcohol may be added. This mixture is sufficient for eight blankets.

Instead of ironing flannels, fold smoothly as if to iron, and wring in rinsing water through the wringer, then hang out to dry. When dry, brush with a small whisk broom, not too hard, and in one direction. This raises the nap and they appear like new, and look as smooth as if ironed. This saves time and with no danger of scorching.

To Wash Heavy Bed-Clothes.—Make a warm suds with good soap and let the comfortables or blankets soak in it for a while. Knead and punch again in another suds, rinse thoroughly and hang on the line without wringing. If a hose is handy spray plenty of water over them when on the line. The cotton in comfortables will not mat when washed in this way.

To Wash Prints and Colored Goods.—In order that the colors on these may be kept bright, they should be "set" before the clothes are wet. This can be done by soaking in salt and water (one tablespoonful to the gallon), or in vine-

gar and water (one-fourth cup vinegar to one gallon water.) Further instructions regarding the setting of colors are given in chapter eight. Wash in lukewarm water and melted soap, avoiding rubbing, and washing more by squeezing and kneading. Rinse well, wring thoroughly and dry immediately with no sun. If the articles are to be starched, have the starch ready and dip at once as the colors may run if allowed to remain wet. If very stiff starching is required however, the articles must be thoroughly dried so they will absorb enough starch. Quick washing, quick drying and no sun are the secrets of successful washing of prints. Colored clothes should not be boiled, and it should be remembered that but few colors can stand washing soda or strong soaps.

If a black and white gingham should dry in streaks, soak several hours in cold water, then wash, rinse, wring dry and hang in the shade where it will dry quickly.

To Wash Handkerchiefs.—Soak the handkerchiefs before washing, in cold water to which has been added a little borax or cream of tartar and plenty of soap. Boil thoroughly and rinse in two waters. They will be white as snow and perfectly clean.

To Wash Stockings.—Wash stockings first on the right side and then on the wrong side. Do not boil. Rinse in clear water, and hang them to dry by the toe. New stockings should be soaked in salt water to set the color.

Union suits dried on a coat hanger and with the tape about the neck drawn up slightly will not draw out of shape about the neck as they do when hung on the line by the shoulders.

To Wash White Clothes.—First of all remove any stains, and either mend or draw together any rents that are observed. Prepare moderately strong suds of water as hot as the hands can bear. Wash cleanest pieces first, a few at a time, first on the right side, then on the wrong side. Rub only enough to remove the dirt. Shake the article, soap the parts still dirty, boil and rinse. Blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING and hang in the bright sunshine and fresh air to dry.

To keep white goods a good color, do not wash them with linen things, as linen discharges a gummy substance that discolors white goods.

Table Linen.—This generally does not require much rubbing as it is not very dirty, and besides hard rubbing injures the cloth. When clean, put in boiler in tepid water and let boil a few minutes, being careful not to let it stop boiling before the clothes are taken out. Place in a tub of clear, lukewarm water, wash and wring. Loosen the rollers of the wringer, for table linen creases easily and tight wringing with a clothes-wringer makes wrinkles that are hard to iron out.

HOW ONE WOMAN PLANS WASHDAY.

The white clothes are put to soak in the evening, and after supper placed on the stove to boil, being stirred several times. After 20 minutes boiling, they are removed and put in a tub, cold water is then poured over them, and left till morning. The tubs of rinse water are now filled for use next day.

In the morning, after breakfast, the clothes that have been boiled are rubbed on board; while towels and similar articles are put on to boil. The first clothes are soon ready for the line and the entire washing is finished early in the morning before the heat of the day comes on.

If you use a washing machine, you can get your washing well out of the way the evening before by getting your husband to run the machine for you, thus saving your strength for the next day.

To Wash With Paraffine, Kerosene or Gasoline.—This method, while effective, requires a great deal of fuel, water and soap, but requires no rubbing whatever. Soak the clothes over night in lukewarm water, then make a strong suds of soap and add a tablespoonful of paraffine, kerosene or gasoline to every three gallons of water used. Bring to a boil, and boil steadily for a half hour. If the boiling stops the dirt will settle on the clothes. Then remove, wring and wash in several waters; the first, at least, being hot water. If not yet clean, repeat the process with more kerosene, gasoline or paraffine and clean water. The rinsing must be done thoroughly or the clothes will smell of kerosene. Be careful in using the kerosene and gasoline, and do not pour

it from the can directly into boiler, but into a cup first. After rinsing thoroughly the clothes should be blued with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

Turpentine is injurious to the health and should not be used except in washing machines. Be careful not to breathe the fumes of it and see that clothes are well rinsed afterwards.

Washing Fluid.—This saves full half the labor, and a family who used it seven years found it did not injure the clothes in any way, probably because of thorough rinsing after using it.

Take 1 pound sal soda, ½ pound stone lime, and 5 quarts water. Boil a short time, stirring occasionally, then let it settle and pour off the top into stone jug which cork for use. Add one cup of the prepared fluid to boiler half full of water, stir and put in the clothes, boiling one-half hour, after which rub lightly through one suds only, rinse well and blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. The fluid is of great value also in removing grease and grime from floors, window sash, etc.

When putting the boiler away, wipe it as dry as possible and always place it upside-down.

When the washing is done, the tubs should be put upside-down on the basement floor and a little water poured over the bottom, then they will never dry out and fall to pieces.

To clean a copper boiler or tank, apply finely scraped bristol brick moistened with ammonia.

To mend a boiler, mix glycerine and litharge to a thick cream, then paste on leak. After standing for a week hot or cold water will not affect it. This is also a good cement for wood or earthen ware.

How to Wash Without Fire.—In summer, clothes may be washed without fire by soaking over night in a suds of soft water, rubbing out in the morning, soaping the dirty places and laying out on a clean lawn in hot sunshine. By the time the last of the washing is laid out, the first can be taken up, washed out and rinsed. This, of course, requires a clean lawn, and cannot be done in the city.

Note.—For cleaning special materials not mentioned above, and further instructions regarding washing, see chapter nine.

Washing Machines.—Washing machines are of three classes; the rotary, squeezing, and rubbing machines. Each has its advantages. All of them cleanse the clothes thoroughly, do not wear nor tear the clothes unduly, and conserve the time and strength of the housekeeper.

In the squeezing process the suds are forced through the clothes by air pressure, thus avoiding undue strain upon the fabric.

Most rotary machines can be run by a motor. The only objection to the rotary machine is that the prongs, in reversing their motion are liable to tear fine fabrics. The combination of a rotary motion with a squeezing motion has also been exceedingly successful and has the advantage of working easily with a motor.

The old-fashioned rubbing or rocking machine with which many are familiar, will scrub out soiled clothes better, perhaps, than anything else, but at great cost of strength and great damage to the clothes.

The use of the washing machine makes possible the use of much warmer water than washing by hand.

TO WASH WITH A MACHINE.

Fill two boilers half full of soft water, cut up one bar good laundry soap or better yet, use soap chips; put into a muslin bag and tie end. When the water is boiling put soap and water into the washing machine, then put in clothes equivalent to five sheets, turn washer ten minutes wring out, rinse through one cold water and blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. You may repeat this process five times without changing water if you wash steadily, and keep the machine closed so the water will not get cool.. The boiling water will not set the dirt.

The washer must be full of water, and blood spots, etc., must be washed out before starting.

When using a washing machine always put fine articles into a flour sack to protect them. They wash just as well.

Equal parts melted lard and kerosene oil makes a very good substitute oil for the washer, wringer, door hinges, etc.

CHAPTER III.

BLUING.

Blue, darkly, deeply, beautifully blue;
As someone, somewhere sings about the sky.
Byron.

The comfort of a household is the result of small things well arranged and provided.
S. Smiles.

THIS chapter is written to those who have trouble with any kind of bluing, and to suggest the remedy.

Bluing is made of different materials, such as indigo, aniline, ultramarine or Chinese blue, etc. These are ordinarily insoluble in water, and are therefore, in their original state, most unsatisfactory to use. This is particularly true of the ultramarine blue, which is the base of the "ball" or "square" blue so often used. It is also used in some kinds of liquid blue. All of these are insoluble in water and do their work by depositing on the clothes a fine blue powder. Any woman using these blues will find a blue coating on the bottom of the tub when the water is poured off, thus showing the reason why they cause so much trouble and so often spot and streak the clothes. When the ball or square blue is used, it is necessary to stir the blued water continuously, so that this fine powder will not settle to the bottom of the tub or on the clothes, thus spotting or streaking them.

AN ANILINE BLUE does not settle, but it can be told by the fact that it colors the water purple instead of blue, and no matter how little is used, it will give the clothes a purplish tint, which is not desirable, nor liked by most laundresses.

BLUING IN STICK FORM is certain to be unsatisfactory. In the first place it is not economical, notwithstanding the statement of the manufacturers to the contrary. That it will not go half as far as a bottle of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, can easily be proven. The base is generally the ultramarine blue mentioned, and it never dissolves in the water, but deposits instead a fine blue powder on the clothes. Then, too, one's hands are sure to be soiled, or else when it is hung up, a blue streak will drain down the wall and on the floor. Anyone who has ever used this style of bluing will tell you that it takes a long time to get the water blue enough, and as one is always very busy on washday, this fact alone is enough to decide against it.

THE DRY BLUE, in a pepperbox, is most undesirable because it will streak or spot the clothes if not used with the greatest care.

As to the SQUARE, OR BALL BLUE, we cannot understand why any woman wants to go to the trouble of wrapping the blue in flannel, taking the chances of getting her hands soiled, as well as streaking and spotting the clothes, and making the muss which is necessary; particularly on wash-day when one has plenty to do. This blue is not satisfactory and the only reason it has been used by housewives is because they have not known of any better.

Liquid Bluing.—We now come to the consideration of liquid bluing. This is far superior to any other style, but even here there are two kinds: MRS. STEWART'S—and others. We will reserve our remarks on MRS. STEWART'S till the last and consider the other kinds first.

Nearly all liquid bluing except MRS. STEWART'S is put up in second hand ale, beer or catsup bottles. These are gathered by junk dealers from the ash piles, saloons and dumps of the larger cities, and then sold just as they are, without being washed. The man who makes this junk bottle bluing, concocts weak bluing, diluted just as much as possible. We have seen such bottles half full of beer, ashes, etc., but this makes no difference to the manufacturer of this vile stuff, for he has to make it up cheaply. The bluing in these bottles does not amount to much more than the value of the label on the bottle. Take a spoonful or two of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING and put it in a catsup bottle, and then fill the bottle with water. You will find the mixture is as good, if not better than the ale-bottle stuff. This explains why it is often necessary to use half a teacupful of ordinary bluing, sometimes even a whole bottle, when a few drops of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING will do the work better.

This junk bottle bluing is sometimes called "cheap," but it does not have even that to recommend it, for it really is far more expensive than MRS. STEWART'S, which will go as far as eight to ten bottles of this vile stuff. Why any woman who wishes to make clothes sweet and clean, can use this dirty bluing is more than we can understand.

Why Mrs. Stewart's Bluing is Superior.—We now come to the consideration of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, the ideal and perfect bluing. This differs from all others in that it does its work perfectly, with no trouble or muss whatever. It does not spot nor streak the clothes nor turn them yellow, but instead, whitens them, and this without injury in any way. You never need be afraid to use it on the finest material, for it cannot injure it. If too much is used, it can be washed out again and no harm is done. To use too much, is in fact, the only trouble a woman has when first using MRS. STEW-

ART'S BLUING, for on account of its more concentrated form much less should be used. By pouring it in the water, a few drops at a time, till the proper shade is obtained, no mistakes can be made.

MRS. STEWART'S BLUING is, therefore, much more economical to use than any other and it is owing to this fact that nearly every Chinese laundry uses MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. They buy it not only because it is the best, but because it is the cheapest for them to use. This is one of our best advertisements.

One of the most important good points about MRS. STEWART'S BLUING is the fact that it dissolves entirely even in the hardest water. It does not settle, either in the bottles or in the tub, and so will not spot nor streak the clothes. It is not necessary to shake the bottle, simply pour out as much as needed. Owing to the shape of the bottle it cannot tip over. Then, too, MRS. STEWART'S contains two ounces more than other (so-called) high grade bluings, so all things considered, we can see no reason why any woman who is particular should care to use any other. Remember, other liquid bluings put up in second-hand ale or beer bottles are filthy in the extreme and you cannot have good work and really clean clothes unless clean bluing is used.

WHAT MISS SHEPPARD SAYS.

Miss Juniata L. Sheppard, one of the foremost authorities on laundry work in the country, whose words, therefore, carry great weight on this subject, says, in her book, Laundry Work."

"Ultramarine blue is a fine powder, insoluble in water and unless the bluing water is frequently and thoroughly stirred and attention given to sides and bottom of the tub, this

powder will adhere, and mar the clothes. Aniline blue will not be satisfactory if a bleach has been used which leaves a trace of acid in the rinsing water. Accustom yourself to some brand of bluing that you find good, and then use that, for you will soon be able to judge by the appearance of the water when the right amount has been used, and you will know how to guard against its imperfections.

Precautions Necessary in the Use of Bluing.—"Do not use too much. The clothes should never have a blue cast. When liquid bluing is used, pour in a little, stir it by putting the hand down in the water. When you think it is right, try it with a white cloth before dipping any wearing apparel into it. Wring each article from the rinsing water before putting through the bluing water, then dip and wring them one at a time."

Be sure that the bluing is well mixed and the water an even color before you put in the articles to be blued. Wring out the clothes thoroughly after bluing, or the water will drip from them and streaks of blue may show on the garments.

If bluing does not work well in soft water, try hard water and in it you may find the remedy. Sometimes a little hot water in the bluing will keep the clothes from becoming streaked. If you get too much bluing in the water put in a little household ammonia.

An excellent plan is to mix the bluing first in a cupful of milk before pouring it in the water. Skimmed milk is as good as any for this purpose. This is sure to keep it from spotting or streaking the clothes.

Boiling will remove spots or streaks of bluing.

A rubber nipple on the bluing bottle will prevent an overdose of bluing.

WHAT MARION HARLAND SAYS ABOUT BLUING.

This is what Marion Harland, the authority on household affairs says about bluing:

"An overblued article betrays gross ignorance or more culpable carelessness, always and everywhere. The shiftless creature who uses bluing to hide dirt is short sighted as well as indolent, for the dirty spots will set into indelibleness. When blue streaks appear in linen which has been well washed, they are due either to improper mixing of the bluing water, or the things thus mottled were hung on the line dripping wet, when the trickling streams dry into stripes."

For making embroidery patterns on white linen or cotton, use a pen and diluted MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. It will wash out later.

After shampooing white hair, rinse in several waters, the last blued with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. This is a secret of the exclusive hairdressers.

MRS. STEWART'S BLUING makes a fine writing and marking ink for general use.

To remove the "shine" from dark wool material, sponge it with diluted MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, and press it while still damp, under a thin cloth.

Why Clothes Become Yellow.—Clothes become yellow for a number of reasons; because not washed or rinsed sufficiently; because dried in the house, or from lying long unused.

Washing too many things in the same water and not rinsing sufficiently are the two main causes of yellow clothes. All clothes must be rinsed quite free from soap suds before bluing is added to the water, or the soap may be decomposed, making yellow streaks.

Sometimes it may be an excess of alkali used in softening the water, cheap soap, or water itself which contains impurities which stain the clothes. MRS. STEWART'S BLUING will overcome all these troubles, as thousands of the best laundresses testify.

To Keep Materials White.—Take a good-sized pillow case and blue it thoroughly with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. In this place the dress, and baste or pin the open end of the case so as to keep out all dust and air. When you open the blue bag your dress will be white without resorting to the tub or dry-cleaning process.

To Whiten Linen.—Linen that has become yellow with age may be made beautifully white by boiling it in a lather made of one pound of white soap to one gallon of milk. After boiling rinse in two waters and add MRS. STEWART'S BLUING to the last water. Another method is to soak over night in water in which has been dissolved one teaspoonful of cream of tartar to every quart of water. When ironed, the linens will be snow white.

Other Uses for Bluing.—It is a fact not generally known that MRS. STEWART'S BLUING can be used with great success in washing white horses, dogs, cats, and other pets. Put a little in a pail of water and then, after washing as usual with soap, rinse with clear water and then sponge with the bluing water.

Bluing is also used by paper manufacturers to make very white paper, and in many other ways; but its principal use is in the laundry for whitening clothes, and it is here that MRS. STEWART'S BLUING excels all others.

Always use MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

CHAPTER IV.

STARCHING.

But now my task is smoothly done,
I can fly or I can run.

Milton.

That which thou cans't do thyself, commit not to another.

THE correct starching of clothes is really the key to their good appearance when ironed. There is no economy in a cheap grade of starch. Dirty starch will spoil the most carefully laundered clothes, and half cooked starch sticks to the irons whatever you do.

All articles required very stiff, such as shirts, collars, cuffs, etc., should be starched in cold water starch, or if a very high polish is desired use Mrs. Stewart's starch polish recipe.

Muslins, laces, prints, etc., requiring but little stiffening, are done best in hot water starch. Closely woven goods require less starch, coarse goods require more.

Table linen may or may not be starched. If starched it remains clean longer, but it is likely to be worn out sooner. It is best to use hot starch diluted, as linen is closely woven and absorbs a great deal.

In washing underlinen, in which case but little starch can be used, add a teacupful of stiff boiled starch to each gallon

of bluing water. This gives the garments a nice smoothness and gloss, but does not stiffen them perceptibly. MRS. STEWART'S BLUING must be used, otherwise trouble may ensue.

Most people starch their clothes before they are dried on the line, and this is always the better plan; but in exceedingly cold weather when clothes are to be put outdoors to dry and there is danger of freezing, it is better to let the clothes rough dry outdoors, where the frost will bleach them; then bring them in and starch them, and let them dry the second time in the house.

Recipe for Cold Water Starch.—Take two teaspoonsful starch, a little cold water, one cup warm, but not hot water and four drops turpentine.

Mix starch with a little of the cold water, using the fingers to remove lumps, etc., then add the turpentine. The turpentine makes the iron run smoothly. Finally add the warm water. In making a larger quantity, be careful not to use too much turpentine, as it may make the clothes smell strongly. If turpentine is objected to, make a lather with soap in the starch, but this is likely to scorch when ironing. A small quantity of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING added, will make the starch very white.

Recipe for Boiled Starch for Stiff Starching.—Take four tablespoonsful starch (if possible, three of corn starch and one of wheat starch) and mix with a little cold water till a creamy consistency. Now add a pint of boiling water, two teaspoonsful of kerosene, one teaspoonful lard and a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING to give the starch a nice white color. Boil about ten minutes, stirring frequently. When ready to use, place the dish of starch in another dish of hot water to keep the starch warm while being used.

One good laundress is very particular to have the starch used while it is freshly made. When necessary to get the white clothes out early she makes a new batch of starch and

uses it hot for the colored clothes. Dark blue and red come out as free from spots of starch as do the white waists.

Mrs. Stewart's Famous Starch Polish Recipe.—Into two heaping tablespoonsful of starch dissolved in cold water, slice 1½ inches of a paraffine candle; place in a granite dish on a hot stove; stir briskly, and pour in boiling water until it is like thin syrup. Boil gently, stirring occasionally, for a half hour. If a tablespoonful of kerosene is stirred in just before starch is removed from the fire, the starch will not stick to the iron.

Now take two heaping tablespoonsful of starch for a second batch, and dissolve in half a cup of cold water. Remove the first dish of hot starch from stove, stirring until the scalding heat has passed off; pour the cold into the hot starch, stirring until well mixed, then strain through cloth into a dish. Set dish in hot water to keep the starch warm while being used. Starch thoroughly, and rub down with the fingers to remove the loose starch, and prevent cloudy spots. Fold shirts, sprinkling body and sleeves and rolling tight. Fold collars and cuffs in heavy dry towel. In half an hour commence ironing.

Iron the inside of collars first, through a piece of fine muslin, passing the hot iron over the cloth lightly two or three times. Remove the cloth, and iron the outside in the same way. Finish by ironing and shaping.

Iron until perfectly dry with very hot irons. A little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING will make the starch and the starched articles whiter.

Recipe for Rice Starch.—This can be used only for thin sheer materials like muslins, handkerchiefs, etc.

Take one-fourth pound rice and cook in one quart water till cooked to a pulp, adding more water as necessary. Now pour in another quart of hot water and strain through cloth.

In using rice starch take one piece at a time, dip in the starch, and if small pieces, clap between the hands, which scatters the starch into every part of the cloth. If large pieces, hang out for a few minutes and iron when nearly dry.

Gum Water for Stiffening.—Take one ounce best gum-arabic and one-half pint boiling water; pour water over gum and let stand, stirring frequently, strain through cloth and then bottle. This keeps a long time and can be used for stiffening as required.

Borax Water.—One of the simplest methods of starching is to use half a teaspoonful of borax in a cupful of cold water. Dip and wring articles, roll in a dry cloth a few minutes, then iron.

To prevent starch from sticking, drop a small piece of alum in the starch when it is done, stir over the fire until it dissolves, then remove and add a teaspoonful of kerosene. This also keeps the colors bright in ginghams for a long time.

A little salt in your starch will prevent it from blowing out of the clothes on windy days and will also prevent starch from freezing. It also keeps it from smelling musty or sour in hot weather.

To prevent strach showing on black or dark colored goods add to it a little coffee, tea or black dye, and if to be used on blue goods, color the starch a deep blue by using plenty of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

To keep brown holland from fading, put a little strong, cold tea in the starch.

If, on account of dampness, frost or wind, the clothes are not as stiff as desired, sprinkle with a weak cold-starch instead of water. Roll up and do not iron for a few hours. They will then be found nice and stiff and will iron with a gloss.

CHAPTER V.

HINTS ON HANGING CLOTHES.

The active only have the true relish of life. He who knows not what it is to labor knows not what it is to enjoy.

Joy.

ALWAYS have a clean clothesline. It should be taken down after each washing and wiped off with a clean damp cloth before hanging clothes on it again. Before using a new wash-line, boil it a few minutes in soapy water and see how much longer it will last.

It is a good plan to have a nail in a closet on which the line can be hung when not in use. This keeps it from getting soiled. Clothespins can be kept in the same place.

Hang everything on the line wrong side out. This is particularly necessary in cities where soot is so much in evidence.—Flannels should be hung with the thickest part attached to the line, so the moisture will run from them and the piece dry more quickly.—Sheets should be hung on the line with the hems together, the hem edge pinned to the line. This prevents whipping and keeps sheets from pulling out of shape.—Make a cheesecloth bag in which to dry dainty small articles, such as doilies, embroidery and fine handkerchiefs. Place them carefully in the bag, tie them in with a tape and pin bag on the line.—Hang pale colors in the shade, out of the direct rays of the sun. Never hang sweaters,

knitted shawls, etc., up to dry; they will sag, stretch and be ruined. Lay them on a clean cloth on the grass in the fresh air and sunshine.

Take your clothes from the line as soon as possible after they are dry. They are likely to become too stiff if left out longer than necessary.

In laundering skirts made of pique, cotton goods or of woolen material, pin them to the line by the waistband so they will hang straight down, instead of by the hem. If pinned at the top, the weight of the water prevents shrinking and keeps the skirt an even length.

Clothes Driers.—The use of yard or veranda clothes driers is preferable to the old-fashioned way of walking back and forth through acres of wet grass. They are not expensive and they are clean, save time and are always ready. Hang the small pieces, such as kandkerchiefs, napkins and doilies on the inside. As the pieces get larger, hang them on the outside. Have a low platform to stand on when the grass is wet.

Tack a piece of oilcloth over the bottom of your clothes-basket to keep snow and dirt from clogging the wicker-work and soiling the clothes.

A camp-stool to hold the clothes-basket is a convenience on washing day. In hanging out the clothes and taking them from the line the stool saves stooping and keeps the bottom of the basket clean.

A clothes bag instead of a clothes-basket is a great improvement when taking clothes from the line. It can be made from two yards of heavy unbleached muslin. Make a deep strong hem at the top and fasten two hooks made of heavy wire and shaped like ordinary dress hooks, about eighteen inches apart on this hem. When taking down the clothes the bag is hooked over the line and pushed along as the clothes are removed. There is no lifting, dragging or stooping.

The pulley clothes line is a great step saver. One pulley can be attached to the porch, the other to a tree or post. It requires, of course, twice as much line as usual.

To keep a clothesline from twisting, hold ball in the left hand and wind till a twist appears, then change it to the right hand and wind with the left hand. Keep doing this till the rope is wound.

A grape basket for clothespins with a wire hook fastened to the handle is a time saver when hanging clothes, as it can be pushed along the line and the pins are always handy.

Galvanized wire clothes pins are much handier than the wooden ones, and they will never rust. As they are always on the line, ready for use right where you need them, you do not have to break your back reaching down for the pins.

To dry small clothes quickly, get a stick two inches square, and on all four sides drive in a few long wire nails. Put a staple or ring in one end and by this hang from ceiling over the kitchen range. Garments may then be hung on the nails and quickly dried.

If clothing must be dried in the house, see that it is in a cold room, for heat turns underwear yellow and gives it an unwholesome odor.

All articles to be ironed will have a better appearance if carefully folded when taken from the line.

Hanging Clothes in Cold Weather.—Before going out in the cold to hang up clothes, wipe the hands dry and rub them well with cornstarch. Your hands then will not suffer with the cold. Small articles, such as collars, handkerchiefs, etc., should be pinned to a sheet before taking them out to the clothesline.

When washing clothes in cold weather, put a handful of salt in the last rinsing water. While not entirely preventing freezing, it will nevertheless make the clothes easier to handle.

Heat the clothespins in the oven and they will retain sufficient warmth to keep the fingers comfortable. Make a clothes-pin apron to hold them and keep them warm.

Another good idea is to have two hooks in the kitchen on which to fasten loops at the ends of a piece of clothesline. Outdoors have hooks in posts exactly the same distance apart as those in the house. Put up the clothesline indoors and hang up the clothes; then take it down, carry it out in a basket, and put the line over the outdoor hooks, with clothes still pinned to it. Do not have the line too long or it will be too heavy to carry when the garments are wet.

If women who have weak eyes would wear a pair of smoked or dark glasses while hanging out clothes they would be saved many headaches caused by the reflection of the sun on the clothes or on the dazzling white snow.

Laundry Bags and Clothes Hampers.—Provide every person in the home a laundry bag in which soiled clothing may be placed from day to day; then when wash day comes, gather up the laundry bags and carry them down to the laundry. The dining room and kitchen, too, should each have a laundry bag, which should be hung where mice will not get in it. Do not permit wet cloths or greasy rags in the kitchen bag, for they may mildew and contaminate dust cloths and dish towels.

The best laundry bag is made of a large piece of cretonne a yard or more square. At each of the four corners sew large brass rings or else make loops of strong tape four inches long, and hang on a nail by all four corners, thus leaving four openings. A bag of this sort cannot conceal anything when it is spread out flat.

An excellent clothes hamper which costs less and lasts longer than the willow ones, is made of a small barrel, covered with fancy cretonne. Lay the cretonne in plaits and tack at top and bottom. Tack cretonne over the cover and make a handle to raise it.

CHAPTER VI.

IRONING.

Work thou thy smallest work with all thy might,
All work well done, is one in One's just sight.

STARCHED clothes are easier to iron if sprinkled with hot water half an hour before ironing. The hot water spreads better and does not spot them. Keep prints and colored goods away from white things which they are likely to stain, and in summer do not let them lie any longer than necessary, as starched clothes mildew quickly.

With shirts, dampen bosom, cuffs and collar by rubbing both sides with damp cloth. Collars and cuffs can be dampened and rolled up in damp cloths. Stockings are not sprinkled.

A large salt shaker makes a good sprinkler, or you can make one of a fruit jar with half a dozen very small holes punched in the top with a nail. First break the porcelain lining of the cover.

A good way to sprinkle clothes is to do so before taking them off the line. Sprinkle them evenly and thoroughly with a clean whisk broom kept only for that purpose. Then take out the pins on the sheets and tablecloths and draw the lower edges perfectly even, when they may be easily folded for ironing before putting them in the basket.

One woman, instead of sprinkling napkins, wrings every third napkin out of hot water ,then rolls all together. In a few minutes they are ready to iron.

When you need to iron some clothes in a hurry and have no time to dampen them as usual, try wringing a clean Turkish towel in lukewarm water, spread over the article you wish to dampen, roll up for a few minutes, or wring all together, and the moisture from the towel will make the article ready for ironing in a very short time.

Ironing Day Hints.—Let ironing day come as soon after wash day as possible, so clothes will not be soiled by lying around.

Ironing day may be made less tiresome by a little forethought on the part of the housewife. Never put linen pieces through the wringer if you would avoid the little wrinkles that are so hard to press out. Small tucks will iron smoother and look better if ironed on the wrong side. If knit wear, bath towels, etc., when taken from the lines are smoothed with the hands and placed on the bars to air, they will be ready to put away by the time the bars are needed for the ironed clothes.

For ironing days a fire of cinders is better than fresh coal.

While ironing stand on a piece of old carpet or folded comfort and the feet will not get so tired.

Irons.—The best irons for all around use are the Sad irons with iron handles and steel bottoms, though many prefer the newer styles with polished bottoms and detachable wood handles. These are indeed easier on the hands and are preferable for some work, but they do not hold the heat as well as the old-fashioned kind.

Care of Flatirons.—When flatirons are not in use keep each one tied up in a tight fitting woolen bag or old stocking top. This prevents them from becoming rusty or rough. Rub them occasionally on a piece of cedar when

ironing to keep the starch from sticking. The odor is agreeable and it will not discolor the most delicate fabric.

When heating irons be careful not to get any dirt, blacking, etc., on them. When ironing rub the iron in salt each time before replacing on fire .

Turn an old pan or kettle over irons which are being heated and they will get hot much quicker. This also keeps the room cooler.

To heat an iron on the grate without smutting it on the coals, lay a stove lid on the coals, and set the iron on this. Both will soon be heated through.

Ordinary irons, when heated over gas, must be carefully wiped before they become very warm. The hydrogen of the gas unites with the oxygen of the air and condenses in the form of water on the surface of the cold metal, and if it is not wiped off turns to rust. If you use the pyramid shaped racks on gas stove to heat irons, be sure to have an additional iron in use so as to keep rack full at times; otherwise the empty space acting as a chimney draws the heat away from the irons.

When through ironing stand irons on end till cool and put away in a clean dry place. If irons are not to be used again for some time, grease the polished surface with mutton tallow, which prevents rusting.

Flatirons should not be put into the steam of cooking, as that causes them to rust. Irons that have once been red hot never retain the heat so well afterward, and will always be rough. While losing no opportunity of using the fire, be careful not to put irons on the stove hours before they are needed, and after using them, do not set them away flat on the floor or shelf, but always on end.

If irons have become rusted, scour the rusty surface with scouring soap, rubbing it on with a piece of flannel. If the

rust is deep, wipe and rub with a piece of very fine sandpaper and finish by rubbing with emery cloth. Lastly, rub the entire iron with hot soapsuds, wipe dry and set on stove till hot, then put in dry place, away from steam or dampness of any kind.

Use cotton holders for irons. Woolen ones are hot to the hand and if scorched, as they so often are, the smell is very disagreeable.

A single thickness of asbestos cloth between squares of cloth makes the best kind of an iron holder.

The Ironing Table.—This should be firm and steady, covered smoothly with at least two thicknesses of blanket or similar material. A layer of newspapers is as good as a blanket for padding an ironing board. On top should be a heavy cotton cloth which can be removed when dirty. Have no seams or patches under the ironing surface.

The ordinary ironing board does very well for skirts; but sleeves require a small oval board held up in the air by two wooden supports attached to a square board of approximately the same size below. This allows the sleeve to hang free. Any man or boy handy with tools can make it. The bosom board for ironing shirts needs to be small and oblong, and the board for ironing embroidered pieces may be any size if heavily padded. In case there are but three boards in use, it is well to have a padded cover ready to slip on one of the other boards. Then there should be a small rolling pin or broomstick smoothly and tightly covered.

Use old sheets for ironing cloths, and instead of tacking them to the board sew tapes on the sides. It takes only a minute to whisk off a cloth and tie on another one, and by changing the cloth every other week the board is always clean. Bore a hole in the small end of the board to hang it up when not in use.

Wool blankets hold moisture and sometimes make the clothes hard to iron dry, so a good plan is to cover the top

with a thick layer of cotton batting—one pound will be sufficient—then cover with one thickness of cotton flannel.

Another good plan is to have the ironing board padded on both sides and covered with a snugly fitting case of strong muslin, open at the large end, to be slipped over all and tacked tightly to the board. One side is used for the white articles and the other for the colored garments that may possibly soil the case by the hot iron setting their colors upon it.

Tack a pocket on the under side of your ironing-board, in which to keep your ironing-cloths, stand, paraffine, etc. Put a button and buttonhole on it, so the things will not fall out when it is turned upside down.

Spread a large piece of paper on the floor under the ironing table to protect the large pieces that may hang over on the floor.

Always have near the ironing board a dish of clear cold water, so any spot imperfectly ironed can be wet with a soft sponge or fine cloth, thus removing any surplus starch and, if necessary, it can be ironed again.

Have everything ready when you begin ironing and try the iron on a white cloth before using. A piano stool raised to the proper height, saves a lot of strength.

On removing the iron from the fire rub it on a damp cloth, then quickly on a wax cloth and then on a clean cloth. This will insure perfect success. Touch the bottom of the iron with a wet finger; if it hisses it is hot and the greater the heat the shorter the hiss.

If you think the iron likely to scorch, never wet it to cool it, as that spoils the temper. Wait a few minutes for it to cool naturally. Use wax freely on irons to keep them from sticking. If out of wax use oiled or paraffine paper or fold several thicknesses of newspaper saturated with kerosene.

It is a fine plan to mark the irons with chalk, 1, 2, 3, etc., using them in rotation.

Muslins are ironed on the right side, prints, dotted muslins, and embroideries on the wrong side; table linens, doilies, etc., on both sides. They should not be too dry or the surface will be rough instead of smooth. Have iron very hot for table linen and muslins, and not as warm for prints. Heavy irons can be used for ironing straight work such as table linen, etc., and light ones for ruffles, embroideries, etc. Iron rapidly in a good light so as to be sure not to scorch the goods. If a wrinkle is made when ironing, dampen it with a wet cloth and smooth out. A slight scorch may be removed by immediately washing the spot over several thicknesses of white cloth. The white cloths absorb the scorch and should be moved frequently. Carefully iron around any buttons or hooks, making as few folds as is necessary.

A folded turkish towel makes an excellent pad for ironing embroideries. Rows of buttons may also be ironed on such a pad, using the iron on the wrong side. All articles must be stretched carefully into shape while ironed. Articles with trimming should be ironed so as to have the trimming on top.

After ironing hang articles on clotheshorse till perfectly dry. It is a good plan to use two clothes bars, hanging on one the clothes that are in perfect order, on the other, those that need mending, darning, buttons, etc. This saves sorting later when some defects may be overlooked. The clothes should hang on bars over night to air and dry, before being laid away to use.

In summer always have a piece of mosquito-netting to throw over the clothes as they hang on the horse. Never lay them in the basket until they are thoroughly dry and aired.

Ironing Shirts, Dresses, Skirts, Etc.—In ironing shirts, the neckband, cuffs, and the rest of shirt should be done quickly, leaving the bosom until the last.

Have the covering on the bosom board elastic rather than hard. Be sure your irons are smooth and well waxed and hot enough for the work required, but not too hot. If yellow streaks appear, the iron is dirty, too cold, or not waxed. If the work gives a streak of polish and one of dull, run a piece of damp cheesecloth over the surface, then heat, clean and wax the iron again.

Mode of Polishing.—Place the bosom, cuff or collar on the board and dampen the surface evenly and quickly with a cloth wrung out of cold water; then wipe the article quickly with a dry cloth. This gives the work a fine polish. Dampen again as before, then iron rapidly over the article with heel down and iron at an angle of 45 degrees, until you have a beautiful porcelain finish.

To avoid breaking turnover collars, dampen a narrow space on both sides where the collar is to be turned. After a few minutes gradually turn and mould, then iron.

Domestic finish on shirts is obtained by rubbing a damp cloth over the highly polished surface, or by passing it an instant over the steam from the tea kettle.

Dresses should be ironed, the sleeves and neckband first, then the rest of the body, and last of all the skirt. If the dress has both an upper and a lower skirt, iron the lower one first.

In ironing a skirt, begin with ruffles, pressing down quickly and firmly with curving sweep of the iron to the left, then bands, sleeves, yoke, or tucked portions of the garment, and lastly the plain part. A heavy skirt should be hung from the line in the open air to dry after being ironed, otherwise it may be creased or wrinkled. A waist should be hung on a coat frame, either wooden, or covered so as to prevent rust spots. Linen dresses will keep their stiffness longer and look fresher if they are hung in a dry closet as soon as they are ironed.

Skirts must never be ironed across the gores, but up and down; otherwise the fit of the garment is ruined.

Ironing Table Cloths, Sheets, Etc.—Table linen should be ironed first on the right side and then on the wrong side. It will be necessary to iron one fold down the center and perhaps one across the width of the cloth. The cloth should now be merely folded (not ironed,) for the balance of the necessary folds. This will make it last longer. Some women instead of folding table linen, have rolls of paper made three inches longer than the width of the cloth, and the cloth is rolled on this as soon as ironed.

Two persons are really needed to get a tablecloth in readiness to iron. Let each take an end of the cloth and see that the hem on one side lies directly over the hem on the other side, with the selvages coming together. Then stretch the cloth, gathering it a little in the hands at the ends if needed. Make sure that the selvages are even, then the lengthwise fold will be even. Put a table back of the ironing board, or else place a clean sheet or paper on the floor beneath. Spread one end of the cloth on the ironing board, and dispose of the rest on the table or floor. Use a heavy iron and move it slowly and carefully up and down with the warp, until wrinkles disappear, making sure that the selvages and hems are together. Press hard and iron as rapidly as possible, and continue till cloth is nearly dry, then iron a new part in the same way till nearly to the end of the cloth. Make hems straight and even and iron from hems toward ironed portion to remove any extra fullness. Now turn the cloth and iron on the other side till dry. Lay a large pasteboard roll on the nearest end of the cloth and after seeing that it is even, roll, pressing the linen in front of the roll with the iron. Lift the cloth now and then to keep it straight.

In ironing table linen always iron with the grain of the cloth and you will get a much higher polish.

Doilies should be ironed with the threads, and if ironed on the wrong side, over soft padding, the pattern will stand

out better.

Embroidery ironed on the wrong side over a folded turkish towel will stand out better and this plan can also be used for the back of a waist with many small buttons.

Make a roll for centerpieces from a curtain pole covered thickly and smoothly with cotton wadding and white muslin. Roll the pieces smoothly on this and tie with ribbon.

In pressing centerpieces, iron the center before the edges, and the article will lie smoothly. This rule also applies to ironing handkerchiefs.

Fringed Napkins, Towels, Bed Spreads, Etc.—Gently whip and snap the edges to disentangle the fringe, and when ready to iron repeat the snapping. Then lay the napkin on the ironing board and with a stiff brush, brush out the fringe. Iron the center, and when this is dry, the fringe. Brush out again after ironing, and if necessary trim with scissors. Bath towels should never be ironed.

To iron tatting or lace bordered handkerchiefs, wash and rinse them as usual, then with a clean whisk broom, gently brush the wet handkerchiefs onto a mirror or pane of glass until there are no wrinkles in the linen and the tatting or lace is flat but not stretched out of shape. This method pulls and arranges the picots and the lace edge perfectly with very little work. It must be quite dry before removing from the glass. Unless the linen center is heavy no pressing with a hot iron is necessary.

To iron silk, sprinkle the articles to be ironed with water and then roll them tightly in a towel. After this it is easy to iron out the creases. Do not use a very hot iron as silk quickly discolors. Pongee should always be ironed when it is perfectly dry, and with a warm, not hot iron.

To make linen fold evenly when ironed, sheets and pillow-cases should be torn by a thread the size desired, but table-cloths and napkins should be cut by a thread. If the materi-

al is shrunk before hemming, it will always fold evenly when ironed.

Ironing Waists.—Iron the sleeves first, and by using a small iron you will find it possible to iron them without creasing, even if you do not possess a sleeve board. Then iron the body of the waist, doing the tucks and plain part, first on the right side, leaving for the last the embroidery and lace, which should be ironed on the wrong side.

To iron the tucks nicely, start at the shoulder, holding the waist at the bottom of the tucks firmly with the left hand, to straighten them, and be careful not to use too hot an iron.

To iron a tailored shirt-waist, iron the collarband first on the right side, then on the wrong, till perfectly dry. Next turn the waist inside out and lay it on the board with the back down; the right side of waist will be up. Begin to iron between shoulders to collar, across back to sleeves, around neck across shoulder seams toward fronts to about same depth as across back. This gives a bulge to front of shoulders. Then turn the waist around and iron the remainder of fronts; turn again, and iron remainder of back and under arms. Finally, iron a cuff and up on sleeve-opening until almost dry, then turn the sleeve right side out, finish cuff and iron sleeve. If these directions are followed, the waist will be right side out when last sleeve is turned and will not be wrinkled.

For a plaited skirt first iron the garment without regard to the plaits, then go over it a second time pulling each plait straight and smooth on the board; in heavy materials a damp cloth may be passed over the plait before the iron. Fasten a spring clothes pin at the bottom of each plait and hang by the belt until all dampness is gone.

Before ironing the baby's flannels take care to have them thoroughly dry; then wet one yard of coarse cheesecloth, put it over the flannel, and iron till the garment is dry.

Jabots Hints.—Dissolve a pinch of granulated sugar in a basin of water and wring the articles out in it. Roll them in a cloth and let them lie for half an hour. When ironed they will look like new.

The plaited jabots should have the plaits firmly basted into place with fine stitches before being washed, and it is better to baste just at the bottom edge, so the lines of the thread won't show when it is ironed. When ironing, begin at the bottom, pulling it gently from the top. The plaits adjust themselves.

The fading of colored articles is due often, not to the washing, but to the ironing. If too hot irons are used directly on the material, this will fade delicate colors more quickly than any amount of washing. The effect is even worse than strong sunlight. Be sure that the article is evenly dampened and that the iron is only hot enough to smooth the wrinkles properly by firm, even pressure.

Silk ties, if wanted stiff should be ironed while quite damp, and if soft and silky, let them become almost dry. This idea also applies to waists.

A round bottle filled with hot water is superior to a flatiron for pressing seams in delicate goods.

When the ribbon bows on a hat get mussed, instead of using a sleeve-board, heat the bowl of a large kitchen spoon and press the bows from the inside.

If a new silk skirt has considerable "dressing" in it, press it all over with a hot iron before wearing. This will take out the stiffness and prevent it from cracking, especially along the folds near the seams, where a ready-made skirt first begins to break. New creases will form in different places each time it is pressed and the silk will wear much longer.

CHAPTER VII.

REMOVING STAINS.

Out, damned spot! Out, I say.
Macbeth act V., scene I.

Cleanliness is the elegance of the poor.

IN removing stains, a great deal of patience is often required, especially if the stains are old. Use caution with cleaning fluids, and do not use them at night, or near a fire or light, as there is great danger of explosion. Some cleaning fluids are poisonous and they must be carefully labeled and kept from children.

When cleaning spots, run a thread around them so as to be able to find them easily after the garment is wet.

Before using any cleaner try it first on the inside of a seam to see whether it will change the color.

When removing spots with a sponge or cloth, clean to the edge of the garment so no unsightly circle will be left. Sponge from outside of the spot towards the center and use a piece of clean white blotting paper under the material.

Put a thick pad of cheesecloth or other soft material underneath the spot to absorb the dirt that soaks through the garment, otherwise the grease will spread over the garment, making the spot larger than before, although not quite so dense.

If a ring is left after using gasoline or benzine, spread French chalk on it and place it in the sun, steam the spot

over the teakettle or lay a piece of white tissue paper over the spot and iron.

When sponging cloth, use a piece of the same goods if possible. Roll up a strip of the same material and tie about the middle. Dip either end in the cleaning fluid and rub article to be cleaned.

When cleaning by a soaking process, remove the goods frequently and dry them in the light and air, returning them to the bath again if necessary, for some strong compounds may rot the goods if left in the bath. If treated with poisonous chemicals wash thoroughly afterwards.

To raise the nap of goods after cleaning, place a wet piece of the same material over the spot and iron with a hot iron. The piece will adhere and the nap raise when pulled apart.

CLEANING FLUIDS.

A good cleaning fluid for nearly all materials is made of equal parts of ether, ammonia and alcohol. Keep corked and do not use near a light or fire. Another good recipe: Shave four ounces white castile soap and add one quart boiling water. When cold add four ounces ammonia and two ounces each of alcohol, ether, and glycerine. Cork tightly. It will keep a long time, and is safe to use. Dilute one half when sponging cloth.

Cleaning Fluid for Men's Clothes, especially coat collars. Mix a pint of deodorized benzine, ½ drachm chloroform, one drachm alcohol and a little cologne. Apply with a piece of soft silk.

Alcohol dissolves many stains and those which resist this treatment may be removed by boiling water poured through or by salts of lemon applied for a few minutes before the boiling water is poured on, and then rinsed in ammonia water.

Ammonia is one of the best of cleaners, particularly if used with warm soap suds. It does not explode and one need not be afraid to use too much. It is particularly good

for fresh spots, for cleaning laces and colored embroidery, grease spots on children's clothes, and to brighten carpets. It brightens glassware, china and paint and a few drops used when watering plants is beneficial.

Soap bark is an excellent cleaner especially for woolen clothes. Put a little in a small cheese-cloth bag and use as a sponge with a dish of warm water. After using wipe with a dry cloth.

Gasoline and Benzine.—These are valuable cleaning agents but as they are very liable to explode, they are safe only when used out of doors, and must not be used in a room in which there is a light or a fire as the fumes can cause explosions when more than twenty feet from any flame. If used indoors, all the windows should be opened as some persons are overcome by its fumes, and the room must be aired before any flame is struck.

Gasoline is of value for cleaning kid gloves, belts, slippers, etc,; for ribbons, silks, chiffon, velvet, etc. After using, let the gasoline stand out doors a short time and the dirt will settle to the bottom. The clean gasoline on top may be used again.

To remove odor of gasoline, if it remains after the goods are thoroughly dry, place them in a warm—not hot—oven and the odor will disappear.

When cleaning clothes with gasoline, use a brush instead of a rag to apply it. This is much more effective.

An excellent cleaner is made by preparing a mixture of gasoline and flour; dip the articles and scrub thoroughly, hang till dry, then by shaking gently all the dirt will come out with the flour.

Javelle Water.—1 pound sal soda, or preferably pearl ash, ¼ pound chloride of lime, 2 quarts cold water. Mix thoroughly and let it stand several hours. Pour off clear liquid and bottle for use. Keep in a dark, cool place.

To use Javelle water, stretch the stained article and rub the liquid into it, rinse quickly in clear water and brush again if necessary. Finally rinse in ammonia water, which is important.

Dampened starch and powdered chalk are used for stains on goods which cannot be laundered. Spread thickly on the spot and lay in the sun for several hours. Then brush off and if stain still remains repeat process.

Another good cleanser for white lace waists, light silk shawls and laces is a mixture of borax and flour. Roll the articles closely in a white cloth and let lie for a few days, then shake. The cleaning preparation may be used repeatedly.

To remove obstinate stains from any kind of white goods. Put a tablespoonful of sulphur on a plate, moisten it with pure alcohol and ignite. Cover with a tin funnel; wet the stained portion of the goods and hold over small hole in funnel. Allow the fumes to reach every part of the stain, then rinse in clear water to which has been added a little ammonia, after which it may be laundered as usual.

DRY CLEANING.

Dry cleaning is not what the average person thinks it is, for it does not mean cleaning with dry powders, but instead, the immersion of the garment in a fluid other than water, such as gasoline, benzine, naptha, chloroform, ether, turpentine, etc. It is hard to understand how a process which involves immersion of the articles in a liquid can be a "dry" one, but articles immersed in the liquids employed in the "dry" cleaning process are not "wetted" in the ordinary acceptance of the term: For example, an elaborately trimmed gown washed in benzine, retains its shape in every way, but the same article immersed in water would become a shapeless mass; a piece of accordion-pleated material retains the pleating in benzine, but loses it in water.

Shrinkage is due to two causes: First, most of the substances employed in the dressing of finished fabrics are soluble in water; and second, the fibres absorb the water, becoming hydrated and considerably modified in their physical properties. The water causes the fibers to become limp and in many cases to alter in shape and size, the diameters of the ultimate fibres increasing and the lengths of the threads contracting considerably. Thus the relative positions of the fibres and threads are altered, and with them the shape of the fabric.

In this book, the approved methods for "dry" cleaning are given under the headings of the goods to be cleaned or the kind of spots or stains to be removed.

Removing Stains.—Special Instructions.

Acid Spots. Touch the spots with ammonia.

Alkali Spots. Moisten with vinegar or tartaric acid.

Axle Grease. Rub on lard and let stand, then wash out.

Blood. Two teaspoonsful of glycerine in a quart of cold water will greatly facilitate the work of removing blood stains. Soak in cold water till stain turns brown, then use soap and warm water. If this does not remove it use peroxide of hydrogen or Javelle water. Starch will remove blood stains from silk or cotton if applied immediately.

Another method is to steep the stained part in lukewarm water until the spots are softened. Then get pepsin and place some of it on the stain. It will digest the blood so that it can be washed out easily.

Bluing. If too much is used in rinsing water, add a little ammonia. Boiling will remove spots or streaks of bluing.

Brass. Rub lard or olive oil on stain, then wash with warm water and soap.

Cocoa. Soak in cold water then treat as for coffee stains.

Cod Liver Oil. Put a little aqua ammonia into the suds in which the goods are washed.

Coffee. Pour absolutely boiling water on stain from a height, having first stretched stained part over a dish or saucepan, and fastened with clothespins so as not to scald the left hand. Repeat several times. To prevent the place from having a yellowish tinge sprinkle some powdered borax over the spot after the stain is removed and then rinse it out. Some rub butter on the stain before using the hot water. Sulphur fumes are excellent for coffee stains. Or you can rub the spots with pure glycerine and rinse afterward in lukewarm water.

Egg Stains. Soak in cold water.

Fruit. Alcohol softens most fruit stains, especially if it is warmed over hot water. Soaking in milk is also efficacious. After softening the stain use boiling water, or better yet boiling milk after the manner used in removing coffee stains. Dampened powdered starch applied instantly will take out almost any fruit stain from wash goods if left for several hours. If stain is very obstinate try sulphur fumes, Javelle water or oxalic acid. The removal of the stains is assisted greatly by placing the goods outdoors on the green grass or thawing snow, which bleaches them out. Fruit stains can be removed from the hands by rubbing them with raw tomatoes and salt, or lemon juice and salt.

Some fruit and wine stains, especially those of apple and pear, and some clarets, are very difficult to remove. If they are boiled gently (after soaking) in some strong borax and water, well rinsed, then hung out dripping wet in the sunshine, or during a frosty night, the stains will sometimes disappear.

Glue. Rub well with a cloth dipped in vinegar.

Grass. Rub with alcohol, milk or molasses if goods cannot be washed. If on delicate colors, use diluted ammonia. Or saturate the article well with kerosene (coal oil) and then wash it well with good soap and water. If lard is rubbed

on the stain and allowed to stay a while, and is then washed with soap and water, it also will remove grass stains.

Grease and Oil. Wash with cold water and soap if possible. Often the spot will come out by simply ironing through brown paper, or with blotting paper. Cover the spot with powdered chalk then brown paper and place a hot iron on it until it cools. Yolk of egg will loosen dirt and grease and alcohol softens it, the latter being especially good for candle grease. Dilute ammonia or benzine are good, or wash with a good white soap after soaking in gasoline. On woolen cloth, a burnt crust rubbed with the grain, will remove grease. Sewing machine oil may be removed with kerosene or benzine. See also Axle Grease and Vaseline.

Take a piece of clean brown paper, and rub the grease spot quickly with it, rubbing hard enough to cause some heat by friction.

To remove grease from silks, take a lump of magnesia, rub it wet on the spot, let dry and then brush the powder off.

Alum water is fine for grease spots. Make a saturated solution of alum and water. When ready to use put it on the stove and let it get very hot. Apply it to the spot with a sponge or brush.

Alcohol and Salt have been found good to remove grease from clothes, when applied with a sponge or flannel rag to the spot. Take four tablespoonsful of alcohol and one tablespoonful of salt. Mix these and shake together until the salt is dissolved. Then use as required.

Gum or Sugar. Dissolve with warm water, or if not washable, with weak alcohol, or sponge with gasoline.

Ice Cream. To remove from silk, sponge the stained parts with gasoline or chloroform, placing a pad of absorbent cotton or blotting paper under the spots. When dry, sponge with tepid water and a good soap, and then rub with a flannel cloth until dry. Use strong coffee to remove stains from black clothing.

Ink. As soon as spilled, soak with blotting paper and throw salt on it, to absorb as much as possible. If on white goods wash in lemon juice and salt, or vinegar and salt, or wash in kerosene. If on colored goods, soak in sweet or sour milk for several days, or use ammonia water, Javelle water, or oxalic acid, but this may remove the color.

To remove ink stains from wash goods rub with the yolk of an egg before washing.

Equal parts of alum and cream of tartar will take out the ink stains without injuring the color of the materials. Mix moisten with water and spread it on the spots. Repeat until they disappear.

To remove ink from silk, hold a lighted candle so that the wax falls on the spots. When the wax cools, scrape it off, and the ink comes also. The mark left by the wax is removed by placing a clean bit of blotting paper over it and pressing lightly with a hot iron. If the goods are washable, melt a piece of mutton tallow and immerse the spots in it when the fat is hot, then wash the garment as usual.

Use a ripe tomato for ink on table linen. Squeeze the juice from the tomato on the spot of ink and work the juice into the spot. Rinse, then apply the juice again and continue until the stain disappears. This will remove other stains also.

Saturate the spot with milk and then with turpentine, letting it stand several hours and then rub it well. This does not injure the color. Copying ink is hardest to remove, but peroxide of hydrogen may help.

Red Ink. Wash with ammonia and cold water, or Javelle water.

Purple Ink. Rub with equal parts alcohol and glycerine.

Indelible Ink. Soak in soft water, and wash with ammonia, or use cyanide of potash (a poison) one part, in 25 of water.

Ink Stains on Books may be removed without injury to the print by oxalic acid.

Fresh ink on carpets disappears by an application of salt, afterwards rubbing with a cloth dipped in milk.

Ammonia removes ink on fingers.

Iodine. Soak in chloroform or ether, or rub with ammonia, or cover stain with cornstarch wet in cold water or milk. Let stand until all stain disappears, changing cornstarch if necessary.

Iron Rust. Soak in lemon juice and salt and lay in sun. If not removed repeat the process, or make a paste of lemon juice, starch and salt, and let lie in the sun.

Cut a tomato in two and rub on the spot, then put in the hot sun. Or take one teaspoonful hydrochloric acid to two teaspoonsful warm water and apply to spots. The latter however will take out the color of the goods. As soon as stain is gone rinse thoroughly.

Place a small lump of cream of tartar on the spot of iron rust, and tie up the article, so as to hold the cream of tartar on the spot. After boiling, the clothes will be perfectly white and free from spots.

Kerosene. Cover stain with hot Fuller's earth for two hours and then brush off.

Lamp Black. Use kerosene and wash with soap and water.

Medicine Stains. Soak in alcohol.

Mildew. This is extremely difficult to remove. Soak in strong lemon juice and salt, vinegar and salt, or buttermilk, and let lie in the sunshine; you may have to repeat this several times. Soap the spots and hang on the line in the sun, or lay on the grass for a few days. Soft soap is best for this purpose. Soak in alcohol or rub lard on the stained parts and spread in the sun; bringing the linen in at night so that no dew or rain shall fall on it. If nothing else is successful use chloride of lime. Take a heaping teaspoonful in a quart of cold water; stir with a stick till dissolved, then strain two or three times. Immerse mildewed articles till the spots begin to disappear being careful not to get the hands in the solution. Spread the goods in the sun. If spots are still visible when dry, repeat process. This destroys color, so will not do for colored goods.

Milk or Cream. Wash in cold water and soap thoroughly. If the spots are lightly touched with ammonia and then ironed over blotting paper, they will disappear.

Mucus Stains. Soak in ammonia water and wash in cold water and soap; afterwards boil. In case of a bad cold in

the family soak for several hours in a strong solution of boracic acid.

Mud Stains on dark clothing which cannot be removed by brushing, may disappear if rubbed with raw potato.

Oil—See also Grease. To remove oil from white goods, place the article in a basin, sprinkle powdered borax over the stain, then pour boiling water over the same. Let remain a few minutes, then take out and rinse.

Paint, Fresh. If goods cannot be washed, soak in kerosene, benzine or naphtha. If wet paint on clothing is rubbed by another piece of the same material, the stain will usually disappear.

Paint, Dry. Soften with lard or oil, and wash. If goods cannot be washed use gasoline or turpentine, or better still, equal parts of ammonia and turpentine. Hot vinegar removes it from cotton clothing.

The oil of the orange-skin will remove paint and varnish from the hands.

Peach Stains on Table Linen. Rub glycerine over the stains two or three days before washing.

Perspiration. Soak in strong soap suds and let lie in sunshine for several days, or use javelle water on white goods only.

To remove perspiration stain from silk waists, sponge, then cover with powdered chalk, let it dry, then brush off.

Rust Stains. These are often caused by impure bluing. By using MRS. STEWARTS BLUING you will avoid trouble, but be sure all the soap is well rinsed out before bluing.

Try sponging the spots with peroxide of hydrogen. This chemical should not be used on colored silk, as it would fade it. Sponge the latter with equal parts of alcohol and chloroform to which there have been added a few drops of ammonia. Experiment first.

Scorch. A slight scorch may be removed by hanging in the sun, or dip in a hot solution of borax and hang in the sun. Extract juice from a peeled onion, by pounding. Add two ounces of soda; one-half pint of vinegar and two ounces of Fuller's earth. Boil ten minutes, and strain. Spread this on scorch and let dry, repeating process if necessary. See also Iron-Rust and chapter on Ironing.

Shoe Polish. To remove shoe polish from wash goods, soak spots in sweet milk before wetting in water.

Tar. Remove same as paint. Kerosene or benzine can also be used.

Tea Stains. Immerse in a strong solution of sugar and water. After a few minutes rinse the spots in soft water, or you can rub with cold water first, then proceed as for coffee stains. Soaking in milk and warm water is also effective. Heap salt on the spot, rub hard, then rinse in hot water in which some borax has been dissolved.

Urine Stains. Treat with alcohol or dilute citric acid; restore color with chloroform.

Varnish. Wet with turpentine and after a moment, sponge with clean cloth. If delicate colors, use chloroform.

Vaseline Stains. Soap and water is often all that is necessary, but stain cannot be removed after boiling. If obstinate, wash with turpentine or kerosene or soak in alcohol.

Wax or Tallow. Scrape off as much as possible, then place brown wrapping paper or blotting paper above and below spot and quickly iron with warm iron, immediately removing paper. This melts wax and it is absorbed by blotting paper. If any color is left from coloring in wax, use alcohol.

To take out Whitewash Spots. Rub the spot with strong vinegar.

Wine Stains. If from red wine, cover with damp salt and place out doors in sun and dew, or after leaving salt on stain for a time, use boiling water (or milk) as for coffee stains. If from yellow wine, wash first in cold water then with soap and water.

To Whiten Yellowed Goods. Table cloths, napkins, etc., sometimes become yellow from lying unused. Put them to soak in a pan of buttermilk for a day or two, changing once or twice. Afterwards blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. Or rub lard on the stained parts and spread in the sun, being careful to bring the linen in at night so that no dew or rain shall fall on it. Leave it out for a week, then wash in the usual way. This process will not injure the finest linen.

CHAPTER VIII.

TO SET AND FRESHEN COLORS.

All that's bright must fade—
The brightest still the fleetest;
All that's sweet was made—
But to be lost when sweetest.

Thomas Moore.

ALWAYS try washing a small piece first. Colored cottons should first be washed in salt and water; 1½ cupsful salt in four quarts hot water, letting the goods remain till cold. Dry in the shade.

To Set Blacks, Reds, Pinks, Etc. Soak in a strong solution of salt water. A little oxgall in the water will help keep weak colors bright.

To Set Greens, Mauves, Purples, Etc. Wash thoroughly in one gallon of water in which an ounce of alum has been dissolved.

To Set Blues, Browns, and Tans, Lavender and other delicate colors. Thoroughly dissolve one ounce sugar of lead in one gallon of water, soak several hours before washing.

For Blacks, Grays, Buffs, Etc. Use a tablespoonful of black pepper to a gallon of water.

To Freshen Colors. Soak in a weak borax solution before washing.

To Brighten Blues, make a very strong bluing water of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. Rinse and dry quickly.

Pink, Green and Lavender Linens can be improved by using a little fruit coloring in the rinsing water.

To brighten a pink cotton or linen dress in good condition, but badly faded, put a piece of turkey-red cheese-cloth in water and boil till the color is right, then add a tablespoonful of vinegar. The dress will dry a bit lighter than when

wet and with an even color all over. One-eighth of a yard of cheese-cloth is enough for a dress. It is best to try a sample of material in the dye to get the right shade, before putting in the whole dress.

Another way is to purchase packages of any standard dye, as many colors as you have different colored dresses. Dissolve each dye in about a quart of boiling water, and when cool bottle. When washing your colored dress, add a few drops, or sufficient to make the desired color to the last rinsing water.

Just as a few drops of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING added to the rinsing water will benefit the white part of the goods, so this will restore the faded dress to its original brightness. Hang to dry in a shady place.

Yellows, Buffs and Tans are made brighter by adding a cupful of strong strained coffee to the rinsing water.

To Freshen Rusty Muslins, Dark Blue Prints, etc., pass them through strong MRS. STEWART'S BLUING water afterwards using a little glue instead of starch.

TO RESTORE COLORS.

If removed by acid use a weak solution of baking soda and water. This is most effective with yellows.

Vinegar is useful in reviving colors. Add one tablespoonful of vinegar to each quart of cold rinsing water. Thoroughly saturate the article, wring tightly, and dry quickly.

To Bleach Faded Cotton wash in boiling cream of tartar water.

To freshen wash dresses.—When wash dresses are mussed without being soiled, sponge with cold starch and press. The starch is made by dissolving a teaspoonful of starch in a cupful of cold water to which a pinch of borax has been added.

To preserve colors in fine gingham, lawn, and linen dresses, wash them in flour starch, using no soap unless there should be some obstinate spots. Five tablespoonsful of flour makes a dishpanful of starch, by adding a little cold water to thin and cool it, which is sufficient for one dress. Rub on washboard and then rinse in a mixture of starch made same as first. This requires no other starching. Dry in the shade. Most delicate shades can be safely laundered in this way.

CHAPTER IX.

WASHING VARIOUS FABRICS.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

John Wesley.

The good are better made by ill;
As odors washed are sweeter still.

Rogers.

TO clean Alpaca, sponge with strained coffee and iron on the wrong side, having black cambric under the goods.

To wash Alpaca, put goods in boiler of cold rain water, and let boil three minutes. Have ready a pail of dark bluing water (made of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING), place goods in this after wringing out of boiling water. Let remain in bluing ½ hour; wring and iron while damp.

Babies Clothes should be washed by themselves, and if necessary use borax, but not soda or washing powder, as these irritate the skin. Be sure to rinse well, and do not starch stiffly.

Bearskin Coats, and white Angora coats and mittens are easily cleaned by rubbing flour into the coat, and after a time, shaking it outdoors. Repeat process if necessary.

Black and Dark Dresses. Sponge with ammonia and water or diluted alcohol then with dark MRS. STEWART'S BLUING water, the latter being to remove the shine.

Blankets. See chapter II.

To Wash Challies. Boil a pound of rice in five quarts of water and let it stand till lukewarm, then put in the goods and wash well, using the rice as soap. Pour off the water, leaving the sediment. Rub the goods well in the sediment, rinsing them in the water you have poured off. Use no rinsing water, but hang the goods to dry direct from the rice water.

Chiffon. See Veiling.

To Clean Chintz. Grate peeled raw potatoes to a fine pulp and add a pint of water to a pound of potatoes. Run this liquid through a coarse sieve and allow it to stand until the starch settles. Pour off the clear liquid and sponge goods with it, then rinse several times in clean cold water.

Clothing. To wash clothing in gasoline, first get a pail or wash boiler with tight cover, and enough best quality gasoline both to soak and rinse the article. Soak the garment in gasoline. If it is very much soiled, twenty-four hours is not too long. After soaking it in the boiler rub the garment vigorously, just as if using water. Rinse in clear gasoline, and hang in the sunshine and air to dry. Finally, press it to remove the creases and also whatever odor may remain. During the whole process up to the pressing keep your work out of doors.

Cotton Goods. Shrink all cotton material before making it into clothing. When shrinking colored goods put salt in the water to set the color. Lay the piece folded as it comes from the shop, in the tub, with enough cold water to cover it. Soak over night, then hang out on a straight bar dripping wet, unfolding only when it is put on the bar. After it has become dry the material may not need pressing.

To Clean a Cotton-Crepe Waist. Soak for an hour in lukewarm soapsuds, using any good soap. Then wash carefully. Shake well and pull lengthwise. Hang on a coat-hanger, protected by a clean towel. Dry in the sun. It is

also a good plan to tack a piece of tape from the neck to the armhole.

To make old crepe look like new, pass the crepe through the steam from teakettle.

Crocheted and Knitted Articles. First sew them in a pillow-slip, and then wash them by squeezing the bag in soapy water, but do not rub or wring it; then hang the bag in the air to dry. A shawl should be patted out straight and dried on a flat surface.

Dish Cloths. Put a teaspoonful of ammonia into the water in which they are washed every day and rub soap on them. Let stand a half hour or so, then rub out thoroughly, rinse well and dry out doors in the sun.

Doilies. Make a suds of soft water and Ivory soap, or a little borax. Wash doilies carefully, kneading and punching them, rinse well, and roll in a towel to prevent colors staining other parts of the doily.

Embroidery. Embroidery may be carefully washed in Ivory soap solution. If colors are likely to run do not wring, but iron immediately between dry cloths. See chapter on ironing.

Ginghams. To wash delicate ginghams without fading add a tablespoonful of turpentine to a gallon of lukewarm water and soak the garment in this for an hour, afterward wash in warm water that has had soap thoroughly dissolved in it. Do not let lie, but rinse quickly through several waters and dry in the shade.

Handkerchiefs. See page 15.

To Wash Brown Holland Dresses. Boil two handfuls of bran in one quart of water; make a second batch like first for rinsing, and strain through muslin. Add one quart of cold water and wash the skirt in it. Rinse first in bran water, then in plain water. Wring and iron while damp, on the wrong side.

Laces. Use castile soap and soft water. Make a strong suds and soak, squeeze and punch but do not rub or pull, rinse well and stiffen with rice starch or sugar. White lace is improved with a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. After this, place on a clean window pane, pulling out each point.

Another method, take a large fruit jar and sew around it a piece of clean white flannel, making a flat seam. Sew one end of the lace perfectly straight to the seam and wind the lace around bottle, securing the points or scallops of lace at top and bottom. Make a strong suds of white soap and cold water, and in it place the bottle of lace. Bring the water to a boil, moving the bottle around occasionally in the water.

Rinse thoroughly in tepid water, and if white, blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING; if cream colored, use a little coffee or chicory in the water. If desired use a little rice starch for stiffening. Dry the lace on the bottle in a current of air, and it will come off the same as though ironed.

To stiffen black lace, dip in milk ,and iron between black cloths. To clean, steep in strong tea and rinse; adding some sugar to the last water. Iron through papers or black cloth.

To wash Battenburg Lace without injury. Baste it to a piece of white cotton material, right side next to cotton, wash and iron it and then remove the piece from the cotton.

Cleaning Lace by Dry Cleaning Process. Rub it in dry flour, then take it out doors and thoroughly shake out all the flour; if not perfectly clean, repeat the rubbing in more clean flour. White knitted hoods, and babies' socks can be cleaned in this way.

Lace Yokes. To clean a lace yoke or collar, sprinkle powdered boric acid on it and lay away for a day or two and then shake well. This saves labor and is better than the old way of taking out and replacing the yoke each time for cleansing.

Another way to clean a lace yoke without detaching. Make a pad of a thick bath towel, and place it under the yoke. Then dip a soft cloth into warm water and soapsuds; dab it over the lace until clean.

Lace Curtains. Make a note of the size of the curtains before wetting them so as not to stretch them too much later, and shake to remove as much dirt as possible. Put to soak over night in suds of castile soap and tepid water. Do not rub them, but knead and squeeze, and when water is soiled use another tub of suds. Put in boiler and boil a few minutes, then rinse twice and if white, blue with MRS.

STEWART'S BLUING, or if colored use coffee, tea or saffron instead of bluing. Wring in wringer (never in the hands) as dry as possible and dip in starch. If you have no curtain stretcher, place a clean sheet on the floor or on the lawn and pin the curtains carefully to it with pins or toothpicks, making sure that the size is the same as before. If curtains should get too dry before they are on, take sprinkling can and wet them. Several curtains may be pinned at the same time, one above the other, or you can pin them on a quilt on the clothesline. Gasoline is also good for washing curtains. Use plenty of gasoline and work out doors.

In taking lace curtains off the stretchers don't pull, but lift from each nail carefully, and when pressing the edges, dampen first, and they will not ruffle but hang straight and smooth. By keeping the curtains folded through the entire operation of washing, the net is not torn.

Always mend the small holes in your lace curtains before they are washed. The large holes that need a patch should be mended after they are stretched. Trim the edges of the hole to be patched and take a piece of old lace curtain or a piece off the top of the one you are patching, cold starch your patch and press it over the hole with a hot iron. The starch will make it stick and it will be much neater and easier than if you had mended it with thread.

To slip a brass rod in a freshly-starched curtain, slip a thimble, or finger of an old kid glove, over the end of the rod, and it will then go in without tearing the curtain.

Lace Curtains—Dry Cleaning Process. Thoroughly shake out all the dust and then place one at a time loosely in a large, strong, paper bag, and sprinkle in a pint of cornmeal. The bag must be securely tied and shaken hard for about ten minutes. After this shake the curtain out doors and air. Fresh meal should be used for each curtain.

Lawn. To wash lawn, boil six quarts of water with two quarts of bran, for thirty minutes, and strain. Put this in the water used to wash the goods. There is no need of starch or soap. Use clear water for rinsing slightly.

Organdie, to Dry Clean. Lay each breadth in turn smoothly upon a table covered with a clean white cloth and rub both sides with a mixture of starch and borax, or with

talcum powder, using a tooth or nail brush; rub into every thread and leave the powder for 24 hours; then shake well in the open air. Cover with a damp cloth and press. Treat light wool stuffs in the same way, using block magnesia instead of the starch.

Organdie, to Wash. Soak in water for a few hours; then soap all over with white soap, put into a clean pillow-slip and boil for twenty minutes; then hang each garment by the belt on a low line and draw gently through the hands from top to bottom, but do not squeeze or wring. Use very weak starch water and hang out to dry, shaking frequently to prevent the folds from sticking together.

Quilts and Comforters. To wash a down quilt, put the quilt with some good soap or soap powder to soak in a tub of hot water over night. If much soiled, soak in several soapy waters. Rinse thoroughly after this in clean water. Hang it in the sunshine for several days and turn occasionally. Be sure to put in a dry place at night. When dry, it will be fluffy, with the down evenly distributed.
fluffy, with the down evenly distributed.

To keep comforters clean, a case may be made of dainty Swiss or washable material to slip over the end used at the head of the bed. Finish edge with a ruffle and baste to comforter. It can be removed easily and washed. The hard work of washing comforters will be lightened if the cotton first be covered with common mosquito-netting and lightly tacked before covering with sateen. When the sateen becomes soiled, cut the tacking and remove sateen and wash. Hang the cotton covered with the netting on a line in the sun-shine to air, then return to covering and tack as before.

Ribbons. To clean, dissolve white soap in boiling water; when cool enough to bear the hand, pass the ribbons through it, rubbing gently so as not to injure the texture. Rinse through lukewarm water and, to dry, wind about a large glass bottle filled with hot water. If colors are reds or yellows, add a few drops of oil of vitriol to the rinsing water. If color is bright scarlet, add to the rinsing water a few drops of muriate of tin. In washing white ribbons or white silk, slightly blue the final rinsing water with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. If ribbons are too delicate to wash with water, use gasoline or naptha. For black ribbons, sponge ribbon with a strained mixture of boiling water and a table-

spoonful of soapbark. Do not iron ribbon, but wind about a bottle to dry. Old faded ribbons of any color can be dyed black very easily.

White silk ribbon, if left in lingerie, will become yellow after being washed a few times, but a pale blue ribbon will become white, and never grow yellow, even after repeated launderings.

To keep hair-ribbons that are cut straight across, from fraying at the ends; cut close inside the selvage on either side, for perhaps an eight of an inch up from the end of the ribbon. This will entirely stop the fraying.

To keep ribbons fresh, put a small quantity of sugar in about a cupful of water and squeeze ribbons out of this water. When pressed they are as stiff as when new.

Sateen. To make it glossy after washing put a little borax in the last rinsing water. Iron before entirely dry.

Serge. To clean white serge use a decoction of soapwort roots. The gown when washed, will be white and soft to the touch. Soap hardens such goods and makes them yellow.

Silk. Black silk can be cleaned by means of hot vinegar or black coffee. The coffee removes every particle of grease. It restores the brilliancy without giving it a shiny appearance or the papery stiffness produced by any other liquid cleanser. When thoroughly cleaned it should be pressed on the wrong side. Be sure to use cloth between the iron and silk.

To Wash a Silk Dress. Rip apart and shake free from dust. Prepare two tubs of warm water; make suds of gall soap in one tub and use the other to rinse in. Wash one piece at a time; wring gently, rinse, wring again, shake and iron with hot iron on what will be the wrong side. It is better to change to new water to rinse in when about half done, making suds in the old rinsing water.

In washing colored silks, first soak in salt water to set the colors, then wash with a mild soap and tepid water. Silks should never be boiled or rubbed hard. Do not let it lie wet, as this will make colors run. Iron on wrong side with moderately hot iron. Silk crepe not requiring ironing may be laid on a smooth clean table to dry. White silk will become yellow unless a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING is used in the water.

To renew china silk, dust carefully and wash in a thick suds of some good soap. Rinse, and iron while quite damp.

To wash summer silks, remove grease or other spots with chloroform. Then make a solution of a teaspoonful of ammonia and a little soap in a pail of water. In this dip the silk until it looks clean. Do not wring it, but press between the hands. Rinse in water from which the chill has been taken. Hang in a shady place until partly dry and then lay between two cloths, and press dry with hot iron.

To keep silk white after washing it, use lukewarm water and a pure white soap. Rinse it thoroughly. Then wrap it in a large cloth and let it lie for half an hour, and it is ready to iron. Do not expose it to the air as the air turns it yellow. Colored silk washed in this way will not fade.

Another method is, after washing carefully in the usual way, to add one tablespoonful of wood alcohol to the rinsing water.

A piece of velveteen is better than a sponge for silk goods and used dry it serves the purpose of a brush.

To wash pongee, use a suds made from lukewarm water and pure white soap; then gently rub the goods with the hands. Rinse in several waters and hang out in the air until perfectly dry, then iron. Do not sprinkle or dampen the goods, as any moisture, even that of a damp cloth placed over the goods while ironing, will be certain to cause shadows. In this way pongee can be made to look like new, and not show that it has been washed.

Silk Ribbed Underwear. Wash in warm Ivory soap and water, to which a tablespoonful of household ammonia is added for each gallon. Soak ten minutes, then quickly wash, rinse and dry. Starch it as it drys, and do not iron.

To Remove Shine From Silk Dresses, Etc. Sponge with a little ammonia in a few spoonsful of alcohol. A black silk when so sponged becomes almost like new. If color has been taken out by fruit stains, ammonia will usually restore it. Almost any dark cloth that has worn shiny can be restored by sponging with strong bluing water made with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

Skirts. In washing a kilted skirt, baste the plaits down from the point where the machine stitching ends, all the way to the bottom of the skirt, leaving the fold entirely free.

The skirt may now be washed and ironed as easily as a plain gored skirt and the plaits will retain their perfect shape.

Stockings. New stockings wear longer if washed before wearing. Sew pairs together before washing, then they are matched when returned. Black and fancy colored hosiery should be washed and soaked in warm suds, and rinsed in clear water, to which has been added enough MRS. STEWART'S BLUING to give shade. If discolored by improper washing have the rinse water made almost black with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. If too bad for this method, color them with dye. To prolong the life of stockings, rinse out your stockings in water as soon as you take them off. They will last twice as long. This is particularly true of silk stockings.

Wash white silk gloves and hose in warm soap-suds, with a little borax added, letting them soak for a while, then rinse, blue, and hang in a dark room. The best time to wash them is at night; they will be dry by morning. Then pull the stocking lengthwise and press with a warm iron, which will restore the original gloss. Never use hot iron. It is the light which turns them yellow

Some women say bran water is the best thing to use for washing silk stockings, as soap is apt to make silk tender.

Summer Dresses. A sheer summer dress that is limp from wear, but not otherwise soiled, may be sponged on the wrong side with milk and water (half and half solution) and after it has been ironed will have a crisp new look.

Towels and Hosiery. Spots on towels and hosiery will disappear if a little ammonia is put into the water and soaked an hour or two before washing.

Red table linen or red percale and calico dresses, if washed carefully with powdered borax will not fade. Use tepid water, with a small amount of powdered borax, and wash each article separately and quickly, using very little soap; then rinse well in tepid water containing a little boiled starch. Hang in the shade and iron when almost dry. Red calico dresses washed in this way will have a beautiful gloss and will look like new.

Veils. Keep veils in shape on a padded pasteboard roll, the veils rolled on neatly and pinned without folding. This makes them last much longer.

Veiling and Chiffon may be Cleaned by a bath made of equal parts of alcohol and rain water, or gasoline and soapsuds, made with white soap. Dip the fabric in and out of the liquid until clean, or put both in a glass jar, seal, and shake until clean, then rinse in a second solution of the same; lay between cloth for a few minutes, then stretch to dry, by carefully pinning on a towel laid on the bed spread.

If not too badly soiled, brush with a mixture of two parts powdered starch to one part borax. Spread chiffon on a clean surface and rub with soft cloth or brush several times using clean powder each time.

When a veil has lost its stiffness, roll it smoothly on a pasteboard mailing tube and hold it over the steam of a teakettle for a few minutes, after which dry thoroughly.

A new veil may be kept from stretching if you thread the sewing-machine with silk of the same color as the veil itself and stitch carefully along each edge of the veil. The stitching will not show, and the veil may be satisfactorily adjusted forever after.

Velvet. When velvet gets crushed, hold the part over a basin of hot water, the "pile" of the velvet rises like new. Gasoline, or ammonia and water are good to clean velvet.

To Wash Velveteen. Make a lather of pure white soap and hot water, in it souse the velveteen up and down a number of times, then put it in two more hot lathers, and finally rinse thoroughly in clear, warm water. Do not wring, but hang it on the line until it is half dry, then iron on the wrong side. The steam will raise the pile and make it look like new material. A teaspoonful of salt to a quart of water should be used in the washing and rinsing waters.

Voile. Soak in lukewarm salt and water to set the color. Then wash carefully in warm soft water with white soap, wring carefully and rinse. Make a thin starch and if the goods are dark put in plenty of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, as it helps to hide the starch. Iron before it is quite dry.

To wash worsted goods, use a white soap, and wash them separately from the other laundry pieces. Do not wring. Shake well and hang by the edge to dry. Iron while damp,

CHAPTER X.

NEW IDEAS FOR CLEANING THINGS.

Happy in this, she is not yet so old
But she may learn; happier than this,
She is not bred so dull but she can learn.

Merchant of Venice, act II., scene II.

Let thy mind's sweetness have its operation upon thy body, clothes, and habitation.

George Herbert.

ARTIFICIAL flowers can be cleaned by covering them with flour or starch and shaking them out after several days; they may be "revived," so that they may be used on another season's hat, if they are held over a steaming teakettle, and each petal is then carefully pressed while still damp with a fairly hot iron. To restore the original colors dissolve enough tube oil paint in gasoline to give shade desired and in this dip the flowers. Shake and let gasoline evaporate.

Carpets. First sweep thoroughly, then wipe the carpet with a clean mop or cloth dipped in ammonia water. For a carpet cleaner the following is recommended. Take three gallons soft water, one bar white soap, a teaspoonful each of borax and pulverized soapbark and one-half teaspoonful carbonate of potassium. Use it boiling hot, scrubbing with a small brush and wiping dry with cloth wrung out of clear water. Dry buckwheat spread on carpets and allowed to stand for a day will remove spots. For soot on carpets do

not sweep them, but spread salt or cornmeal on it. An alum solution restores colors. For kerosene on carpets, cover the spots with flour and let stand until the flour has absorbed the kerosene, when it should be swept up carefully.

Chamois. Wash in tepid water, to which has been added a little ammonia, and rub well. Pull into shape as it dries, and rub between the hands occasionally to keep soft. Do not wring it.

To Whiten Celluloid Collars and Cuffs. Use cream of tartar with a little water.

Corsets. To clean them, take out the steels at front and sides, then scrub thoroughly with tepid or cold lather of white castile soap, using a very small scrubbing brush. Do not lay them in water. When quite clean let cold water run on them freely from the spigot to rinse out the soap thoroughly. Dry in a cool place without ironing, after pulling lengthwise till they are straight and shapely.

To Clean Feathers. White, and light colored plumes that are not badly soiled can be cleaned by rubbing them in a pan of equal parts of salt and flour.

Or cover with a pint of gasoline and equal parts of borax and corn starch, enough to make a wet paste, rubbing them only one way. When quite dry, shake off all the powder and curl with a knife. Grebe feathers may be washed with white soap in soft water.

Ostrich feathers will wash perfectly if care is taken. Make a suds of white soap, warm water and a little borax. Soak the feathers in the solution for a few minutes, then draw the fronds upwards with the hand until all dirt is removed. The feather will not look particularly clean until it is dry. After lifting from the suds rinse in clear water and hang in sun and air to dry thoroughly, then curl with some blunt instrument, as the back of a knife.

You can easily curl an ostrich plume by placing it in a warm oven for a few minutes, or shake over hot stove, on which a little table salt has been sprinkled.

To Color Feathers and Milkweed Balls there is nothing better than MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

To Dye Feathers, chiffon, flowers, etc., mix enough oil paint with gasoline to give the shade desired. Sometimes it is necessary to dip several times.

Fur. To clean white fur, take heated bran or oatmeal but do not brown it, dip a clean flannel into the heated meal or bran and rub the fur with it. Let stand a couple of hours, then shake and air.

To Clean Kid Gloves. Put gloves on the hands and then wash in a basin of benzine rubbing the hands gently together. Do not rub too hard. Afterwards hang the gloves in the air to dry. Or dip a woolen rag in benzine and allow it to become almost dry. When it is simply damp it is just right. Rub this over the gloves, then take bread crumbs and rub lightly, repeating the operation as required.

Or put the gloves to soak in benzine in a fruit jar. See that the cap is screwed tight and let stand for a day after which hang in the air to dry. Benzine being inflammable and explosive, must be used with the greatest care, and never in the same room where a lamp or fire is burning. Gasoline can be used instead of benzine if desired.

Some gloves can be washed in ammonia, or in soap suds and warm water, when on the hands. Often they can be cleaned by rubbing with slightly damp bread crumbs or with art gum. Chamois gloves should be washed in cold, soapy water, using a pure white soap. Rinse in a soapy water also, to prevent them from becoming hard. Hang them up by the upper edge until dry, but do not dry near heat. Gloves of a delicate tint can be cleaned on the hands with a piece of white flannel moistened with milk and rubbed

on a piece of white soap. Go over the gloves gently and rub dry with a flannel cloth.

To clean white silk gloves make a good suds of white soap and lukewarm water and wash the gloves. Do not rub the soap itself on the gloves. Rinse them in several waters, adding a drop or two of MRS. STEWART'S BLUING. Place them in a turkish towel and wring out all the water; then hang over a rack to dry. Washed in this way, white silk gloves will not turn yellow. To protect gloves from perspiration put a little absorbent cotton between the palm of the hand and the glove. Black gloves that wear white at the finger tips may be touched with sweet oil and black ink. When dry rub well with flannel.

Light suede gloves may be satisfactorily cleaned with oatmeal. Put the gloves on the hands and then rub the hands through the meal, as if washing them with water. If any part is especially soiled, scour it with a piece of white flannel dipped in the meal.

When the nap on suede shoes or gloves gets packed down or soiled, rub the articles lightly with sandpaper. This will restore its good appearance.

To Wash Gray or White Hair and Prevent Its Becoming Yellow. Shampoo with a pure soap and afterwards rinse in water blued with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

To wash a gray hair switch, use pure soap and after rinsing dip repeatedly in a dish of water blued with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

Leather Belts can be softened with kerosene.

Parasols. Open them and scrub with soap suds made of white soap and lukewarm water. When clean rinse by pouring several buckets of water, or better turn on the hose. Last of all add a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING water, pouring from a watering pot, and then let the parasol dry and bleach out of doors.

Pillows. On a bright windy day plunge the pillows filled with feathers in a tub of hot suds. After putting them through several waters, shake and hang them on the line out doors, but not in the direct sunlight. They should be thus aired for a week, shaking occasionally.

To steam clean feather pillows, place a couple of pieces of board across four tin cans and set in the bottom of the boiler; put three inches of water in the boiler, place the pillows on the board, cover the boiler and let the pillows steam for an hour. Hang them out in the wind and shade until they are nearly dry, and finish drying in the sun. They come out light and downy, clean and fresh-smelling. It would be even better to dump the feathers into cheese-cloth bags, then the ticks could be washed separately.

Plush. Sponge with chloroform.

Rain Coats. Put the whole garment in cold water, and then, dipping a scrubbing brush in suds made with ordinary yellow soap, scour the whole of it from top to bottom, the coat meanwhile being laid flat on the table. It must be given several rinsings, but must neither be wrung nor placed near the fire to dry. Mud stains on rain coats disappear when rubbed with a clean slice of a raw potato.

Rugs. See also Carpets. One way to clean them is to hang on the line and wash thoroughly with the garden hose. Lay rug on the grass to dry.

Oriental Rugs. Once a month should be taken out and laid on the grass and whipped gently—never hung on a line and beaten. Then turn them over and sweep with a stiff broom dipped in ammonia and water. This brightens the colors. Finish by washing them all over with olive-oil soap and warm water, using a flannel rag, which seems to give new life to the wool. If the rug has fringe on it, occasionally make a warm suds and dip the fringe up and down in the shallow water, being carèful not to knot it.

To Wash Rag Rugs. Make a suds of pure soap and tepid water and scrub the rug with the warp, with a pliable brush. Rinse thoroughly, blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING and starch, then spread over a cloth in the shade to dry.

To Prevent a Rug from Curling. Sew a piece of chair webbing close to the edge of each end on the underside of the rug.

To Clean a Sponge. Rub a fresh lemon well into a soured sponge and rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water. This will make it as sweet as when new.

Straw Hats. Wash with a white soap and bleach with oxalic acid or peroxide of hydrogen. Dry in sun. A paste of sulphur and water will clean them if allowed to stand some time. Stiffen with a mixture of gutta percha and ether. A blue straw hat that has begun to fade may be freshened by painting it with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING.

Summer Clothes. When you put away your white summer clothes take a large sheet and make very blue with MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, dipping, rinsing and drying several times. If hung over the summer clothes in the attic it will keep them from yellowing. Blue cambric is also good, and fine centerpieces can be wrapped in blue tissue paper.

Ties. Silk ties can be freshened and cleaned by immersing in a fruit jar filled with gasoline. Screw cap on jar and let them soak a day, afterward dry thoroughly. Use a brush dipped in gasoline, to scrub the very soiled parts. Satin, of course, does not permit of this treatment.

Wash ties should have a basting thread run lengthwise through the middle of the tie which will keep the lining from wrinkling when washed.

Tinsel and Gold Lace. Clean with ammonia water.

Trimming. For light trimming on dark dresses cover with cornmeal saturated in gasoline. Brush off when dry.

To Crease Men's Trousers. Before pressing, turn and moisten the crease on the wrong side with a brush dipped in starch or library paste. Press dry, and the crease will remain much longer.

To Clean White Vests. Use block magnesia, rubbing well. Put vest in drawer for several days, then beat and brush.

Walls. To clean hard finished walls use a cupful of ammonia to a bucket of water and apply with soft piece of muslin. Kerosene with hot water may be used if desired.

Cleaning Wall Paper. One quart of flour; one tablespoonful of pulverized alum. Mix together and stir in cold water with a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING, until a little thicker than pancake dough. Cook until it becomes so thick you can't stir it any more, then mix in cracker crumbs until the dough doesn't stick to your fingers. Rub the paper lightly with this dough and it will make it look like new.

Begin at the top of the room and always rub downward and not horizontally. Do not rub too hard.

Faded cartridge wall paper can be painted with water color paint mixed with paris white and sizing. Apply with kalsomine brush.

To freshen wall paper, give it a very thin coat of kalsomine. This makes the colors delicate and leaves and flowers misty and indistinct.

To remove wall paper, brush over with warm water or else a thin flour paste. In half an hour the paper will easily peel off.

To remove grease spots from wall paper, take a piece of blotting paper and drop a few drops of benzine on it; have ready a warm flat iron. Place the blotting paper on grease spot and place iron on blotting paper, holding it there several minutes, and when the benzine has evaporated the grease spot will go also. If the grease spot is of long standing a second application may be necessary.

Clean Cotton Waste such as is used by engineers is fine for dusting and cleaning and when soiled can be burned or thrown away.

To Make Whitewash. Put some freshly burned quicklime in a pail with sufficient water to cover it. Then add one pint boiled oil to each gallon of the mixture, and a little MRS. STEWART'S BLUING to make it a pure white. Thin with water till the proper consistency, and apply with a brush. Do not let the brush remain in the pail as in time it destroys the bristles. This whitewash will not rub off easily and is also a great purifier.

Windows. Wash in lukewarm water and dry by rubbing with a clean chamois skin wrung out of cold water. A little kerosene or ammonia in the water will give a brilliant polish and in winter this is especially necessary. Starch rubbed over windows or mirrors gives them a fine finish. Use tissue paper or old news papers with which to polish.

To remove paint from window panes, rub briskly for a few minutes with baking-soda, or hot vinegar, then wash in clear water. This will remove paint if it has been on the window for years. Paint, when wet, can be removed from glass with turpentine; when dry, by rubbing with a penny.

CHAPTER XI.

HELPFUL HINTS.

For nothing lovelier can be found
In woman than to study household good.

Milton.

So great is the effect of cleanliness upon man, that it extends even to his moral character. Virtue never dwelt with dirt, nor was there ever a person scrupulously attentive to cleanliness who was a consummate villian.

Rumford.

TO preserve freshness of silk skirts sew loops under the flounces and hang them in your closet upside down. This freshens them and makes the ruffles stand out when worn.

When Packing a Plaited Skirt in a Trunk the skirt will need no pressing if the plaits are first basted down flat.

Lingerie Waists. Sew on the under side of inserted lace common wash net cut the shape of the insert. Even badly torn places may be mended by darning down invisibly upon the net, and many very open patterns are really improved.

Before Working in the Garden, or doing other rough work, rub your finger nails over a piece of soap. This will prevent the earth from getting in under the nails, and when you wash your hands the soap comes out easily.

When Sending Suits to the Tailors for cleaning and pressing, mark all grease spots with chalk. A great many of the small spots would not be seen by the tailor otherwise.

When Marking Linen with a pencil or indelible ink, put the material in an embroidery hoop to hold it firmly and then set a glass paper weight or other smooth surface directly under the place you wish to mark.

When Embroidering Initials on a hemstitched towel, leave space enough below the letters to make a new hem, for the first one will be sure to tear off long before the rest of the towel shows signs of wear. If the letters are close to the hem it is impossible to repair the injury so that the towel will look well again.

Mark Sheets of Different Sizes on the left hand corner with indelible ink or marking cotton, so you can tell at a glance which sheet to take.

When Drawing Threads from Linen rub soap on the cloth and the work will be accomplished much more easily.

To Keep the Tablecloth Clean start a "spot bank." When any member of the family gets a spot on the tablecloth he or she puts a cent in the bank. At the end of the week the money is given to the one having a record of the fewest spots. As children want to win the pennies this plan will make them careful, and the effect will be lasting.

To Shrink Woolen Cloth. Dampen a sheet thoroughly and spread out smooth. Place the cloth on it and fold over and over. Leave it folded from one to three hours. Then hang it across a straight bar, not a clothes line.

To Make Bubbles That Can Be Blown Big and Will Last, take a piece of laundry soap about an inch square and cut it up in a cupful of warm water, in which dissolve half a teaspoonful of gum arabic and then add a teaspoonful of glycerine and a cupful of cold water. Stir well and blow bubbles from a small pipe. Strawberry juice for coloring will make pink bubbles and orange juice will make yellow ones.

Wrinkles. To remove them from coat or skirt, hang in bathroom over the tub, close the door and turn on the hot water. Let it remain there two or three hours, then hang out in the fresh air.

To Render Corks Tight Fitting. Take a cork that is a little too large for the bottle. Boil the cork in water for twenty minutes; then press it into the bottle.

After opening a bottle of glue or cement, rub mutton tallow on a sound cork before inserting it in the bottle, which will prevent the cork from sticking to the neck of the bottle and breaking when an attempt is made to remove it.

To remove glass stoppers, put one drop of sweet or olive oil on the opening.

To Drive out Flies. Flies dislike the smell of oil of lavender, and a few drops on a bit of cloth placed in a saucer of boiling water will drive them away. Hang a rag with a few drops on it, near the top of the screen door.

Kitchen Aprons may be marked with a cross-stitch of red on the inside band when there is no very decided right or wrong side. This mark may be seen at a glance and will save one's time and patience when slipping on an apron in a hurry.

Incombustible Dresses. By putting an ounce of alum or sal ammoniac in the last water in which muslins or cottons are rinsed, or a similar quantity in the starch in which they are stiffened, they will be rendered almost incombustible, or at least will with difficulty take fire; and if they do, will burn without flame. It is astonishing that this simple precaution is so rarely adopted.

A Neat Patch for Shirts. Sometimes a shirt that is good everywhere else will have a small hole on each side of the front, below the neckband where the points of the collar come. To mend these places, cut a piece from the lower part of the shirt and dip it into the cold starch you are using for the cuffs, lay it over the holes, matching the figures carefully, and pass the iron over it. The patches must be renewed every time the shirt is washed, of course, but put on in this manner they are much less noticeable than when sewed on.

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A Thought of Washing Day

By Julia Ward Howe

The clothes line is a Rosary
Of household help and care;
Each little saint the Mother loves
Is represented there.

And when across her garden plot
She walks, with thoughtful heed,
I should not wonder if she told
Each garment for a bead.

For Celia's scarlet stockings hang
Beside Amelia's skirt,
And Bilbo's breeches, which of late
Were sadly smeared with dirt.

Yon kerchief small wiped bitter tears
For ill-success at school;
This pinafore was torn in strife
'Twixt Fred and little Jule.

And that device of finer web,
And over-costly lace,
Adorned our eldest when she danced
At some gay fashion place.

A stranger passing, I salute
The Household in its wear,
And smile to think how near of kin
Are love and toil and prayer.

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